

Manitou Analecta

by Gertrude M. Hilleboe





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1915 - 1958

Manitou Analecta

a collection of narratives
of selected events and recollections
drawn from my years of association
with St. Olaf College,
its staff and its students

by Gertrude M. Hilleboe

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Foreword

On many occasions both formal and informal during the years I was privileged to serve as Dean of Women at St. Olaf I have been called upon to tell something of the background and early history of St. Olaf and the days when I went to college as well as incidents of later years. Repeatedly I have been requested to put some of these accounts into writing. It is in answer to these "tell me a story" requests that I am recording most informally some of my remembrances and experiences. I make no attempt at any connected historical presentation. But it is my hope that this collection of jottings from Manitou Heights may be of help to some future St. Olaf historian and even in its present limited scope prove a happy reminder to former students of their days at St. Olaf.

Gertrude M. Hilleboe

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Early Contacts

THERE NEVER WAS a time within my memory when my life was not in some way linked with St. Olaf. My uncle Halvor Ytterboe, my mother's brother, and my father were classmates at Luther College. A couple of years after graduation both were teaching at embryo educational institutions, my father at Willmar Seminary, Uncle Halvor at St. Olaf's School.

My grandparents Ytterboe lived not far from Decorah, Iowa, and every summer Mother and we children would spend a couple of months on the farm, while Father was occupied teaching at summer schools and institutes. On our way home we would stop at Northfield to visit Uncle Halvor, Aunt Elise, and the cousins.

Old Main and Ladies Hall, the latter now long since torn down, were the only buildings on the campus during our earlier visits. The Mohns and Ytterboes lived in Old Main, the Fellands in Ladies Hall.

The Ytterboe quarters, a living room, bedroom, and kitchen, were on first floor facing east and north. In later years the partitions were removed and the Ytterboe quarters became a biology classroom. I recall how impressed I was by the high ceilings and tall windows with their elegant red velvet draperies. In the northeast corner of the living room was a window seat that intrigued me, a Christmas gift from Mr. Ytterboe to his wife. But what was most fun was to run up and down the long stairs to third floor. Since our visits were in the summer, we had

the range of the entire building. Of course we also visited the Fellands in Ladies Hall, beyond which lay the woods, dark and mysterious, ready for exploration. Picking butternuts and wild flowers was a favorite pastime for us youngsters. One of the most interesting features of these summer visits was riding from the Milwaukee depot in a hack and being called for by the high-perched driver with his gleaming team of horses when our visit was over.

During its early years the school had a most precarious existence. At times there was no assurance in the spring that the school could even re-open in the fall. At no time during its first twenty-five years did its student body number more than one hundred eighty-four. Much of the time the enrollment was in the upper eighties and nineties and lower one hundreds. But St. Olaf's School had a president with a vision and an excellent and dedicated faculty which carried on no matter what the odds. President Thorbjörn N. Mohn, Mr. Halvor T. Ytterboe, and Mr. O. G. Felland constituted the core of the administrative and teaching staff during most of these years.

St. Olaf's School was founded in 1874 by the congregations of only two parishes, those of the redoubtable Bernt Julius Muus and the equally church-school-interested Pastor Christian Quammen. It became evident as time went on that the institution needed a broader base of support. So when in 1890 the United Lutheran Church was organized, efforts were made to have the now St. Olaf College (college work was begun in 1886) accepted by this newly-organized church body as its college. This was done, but the move proved pre-mature and after a few years St. Olaf was again on its own. The years following were crucial for its future. For they were also the years of the hard times from 1893 to 1896. For six years Mr. Ytterboe, who was the treasurer of the school, spent his time going from farmhouse to farmhouse and from village to village soliciting funds and students to keep the institution going. Belts were tightened at the college. A faculty member who left was not replaced; the rest closed ranks to carry on his work until times were better. Mrs. Ytterboe undertook the management of the kitchen and dining facilities so that no one would have to be hired for that service. The students' rooms were heated by wood-burning stoves and many of the large trees on the college property were

cut to save buying fire wood. The little group had faith that once the emergency was tided over and the constituency of the newly-formed United Lutheran Church convinced of the importance of having a liberal arts college of its own, a brighter day for St. Olaf was ahead. Meanwhile it was a matter of grimly hanging on.

I remember these days well; for though only a small girl at the time, I used to hear my parents talk about the situation and Uncle's work. One summer when we were at Grandpa's farm, in the midst of our evening devotions there was a knock at the door and a voice inquiring about the possibility of a room for the night for a tramp. 'Nei, Halvor, du,' exclaimed Grandmother, who was unaware that Uncle was soliciting in their area. Much of the time on these trips he trudged from farmhouse to farmhouse. Other time he got rides. Needless to say Grandfather drove him around the next day.

Mr. Ytterboe was blessed with a keen sense of humor and many were the tales he could relate of his experiences during those years. Once when he had explained his errand to the lady of the house, she answered, as occurred often, that he would have to see her husband, who was mowing hay down by the slough. So, Mr. Ytterboe set out to find the man of the house and finally located him. The farmer evidently knowing Ytterboe's mission kept on mowing, going farther and farther into the slough. Mr. Ytterboe followed him and finally established communication. He got \$10 (no small sum in those days). But the farmer chuckled gleefully that it was something to see a professor get his feet wet before he got his money.

On another occasion he stated his errand to the woman who answered his knock on the door saying, "My name is Halvor Ytterboe. I'm soliciting money for St. Olaf College." This statement was met by a blank stare. Thinking the woman might be hard of hearing he repeated the statement in a louder voice. The reaction was the same. Finally in a very loud voice he again gave his name and mission. Her reply will be appreciated in all its juiciness only by those who understand Norwegian. "Ja-ja, jöses du, det er all right da, du faar vel ha et navn du og." Good Lord, man! that's all right, I suppose you too will have to have a name.")

People to whom he spoke the cause of St. Olaf were kind and

generously extended hospitality of bed and board to their visitor. Their over-zealousness to give the professor the very best they had at times caused him difficulty. He happened to be allergic to salmon. Many a housewife regarded canned salmon as one of the choicest foods she could place before a guest. Mr. Ytterboe was in quite a dilemma. Here he was soliciting money and students for St. Olaf College, and if he did not eat everything urged upon him he might give the impression of disdaining the food. Usually he managed to explain his situation. But it did happen that at times he let himself get sick rather than seem to insult his hostess. Allergies hadn't been heard of in those days.

On June 27, 1899, St. Olaf College was accepted as the college of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church. President Mohn had guided the fledgling institution well during its first twenty-five years and had laid its foundations deep and strong. He had fought hard for its acceptance by the new church body and for the retention of co-education. But his health had suffered greatly. The presidency of the college was turned over to an able young preacher from Chicago, the Reverend Johan Nathan Kildahl, while Mr. Mohn retained a teaching position on the faculty. He died that same fall mourned by the entire Northfield community as well as by the college constituency. But he had set St. Olaf College on its course and that is his monument.

A dormitory for men and a home for the president on the campus were the first evidences of the enlarged base of support that came to St. Olaf when it became the college of the Church. The Ytterboes, who now had been living in a house downtown for a year, moved into the Men's Dormitory on its completion in February 1901 and were its first house parents. It was exciting for us to visit our cousins in this new building reputed to be the finest men's college dormitory in Minnesota at the time. There was office space for Mr. Ytterboe, a lovely living room, two bedrooms and a bath. The family ate in the college dining room which occupied one-half of the ground floor. The remainder of the ground floor space was given over to the kitchen, laundry, student washrooms, and the gymnasium.

Summers when we came to visit seemed so leisurely and lovely on this beautiful campus. I have recollections of the men playing croquet in the afternoons while the women visited and all had supper either in the dining room or on the lawn in front of the

dormitory. In the evenings the adult members of the Kildahl, Ytterboe, and Felland families as well as guests and other friends would gather in the attractive parlors in the dormitory for conversation and very often for listening to the reading aloud of some new book. I remember Agnes Kittelsby, who then was a teacher at St. Olaf, reading Collins' "The Woman in White" to the group. I got in a corner to listen. It seemed so exciting. But I was gently but firmly told to go out and play with the other children, that this book was for grownups only.

Mr. Ytterboe regarded his position of "being in charge of the boys" as among his most significant work at the college. Whenever he led in chapel he used for his text the words from Ecclesiastes, "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth." Mr. Ytterboe died very young; he was only forty-five. He literally gave his life for the students. A severe epidemic of scarlatina broke out in the men's dormitory. Men in different parts of the building who apparently had had no contact with each other kept coming down with the illness. Finally it was decided that the source of contagion was the men's washroom located on the ground floor and which all the residents used.

According to the medical practices of the day it was ordered that this room was to be fumigated with formaldehyde. Every evening after ten o'clock when all the students were to be in their rooms, for ten weeks Mr. Ytterboe filled all crevices in windows and doors with cotton and lit the formaldehyde lamp to burn during the night. Around five o'clock in the morning he opened doors and windows to air out before the students came to use the room. As a result of this long exposure to the fumes, he developed formaldehyde poisoning which brought on a creeping paralysis from which he died after two years.

Some years later the men's dormitory was named Ytterboe Hall. In subsequent years many generations of students have happy memories of this building which served not only as a men's dormitory but also for some years as the center of college life.

St. Olaf Builders

AT ALUMNI MEETINGS during commencement it has for many years been customary to have representatives from the 50th and 25th anniversary classes give a short talk. On one such occasion the 25th anniversary speaker said, "When we were students we didn't have such buildings as the Gymnasium, Holland Hall, the Music Hall, Agnes Mellby" . . . and went on to enumerate all the stone buildings erected since his time.

Someone from the audience called out, "What *did* you have?" His answer has become classic, "We had Kildahl." It brought sharply into focus the fact that it is not mortar and stone that constitute a college, but the men and women who teach and those who learn.

St. Olaf has been most fortunate in the leadership given it by its founder and its six presidents, each seemingly equipped with the special qualifications needed for the era in which he served and each leaving his distinctive mark upon the institution. Through those early foundation-laying and slowly developing years, St. Olaf had, though small, an exceptional staff of able and dedicated faculty members.

As indicated in a previous chapter, President Mohn, Mr. Ytterboe, and Mr. Felland constituted the core of the faculty for the first ten years. Among those added to the staff during the next fifteen years of President Mohn's administration we find such familiar names as Ingebrikt F. Grose (English and religion), Edward W. Schmidt (biology), Nils Flaten (Romance languages).

Andrew Fossum (Greek), Agnes Mellby (preceptress and German), and Olav Lee (Latin and religion).

When St. Olaf became the college of the Church, its student enrollment increased rapidly. President Kildahl showed an almost uncanny skill in selecting his additional faculty members and during his presidency brought to this campus a group of men and women, young, enthusiastic, and ambitious, each one eager to put his best efforts into developing his department. And so we got P. J. Eikeland in Norwegian, Julius Boraas in education, Erik Hetle in physics, P. M. Glasoe in chemistry, Engebret Tufte in biology, F. Melius Christiansen in music, George Weida Spohn in English, Agnes Kittelsby in history and English, Anna Drotning in home economics, Ole E. Rølvaag in Norwegian, P. G. Schmidt in mathematics, P. O. Holland in the business office, George Berg in Greek, C. A. Mellby in history, J. Jörgen Thompson in Norwegian and principal of the Academy (later Dean of Men), Emil Ellingson in chemistry, Wm. Benson in history, Martin Nordgaard in mathematics, and Adelaide Hjertaas Roe in music.

Under President Vigness were added such well-known names as Paul E. Bollenbacher in German, Edward Ringstad in psychology, George Ellingson in German, Albert Holmquist in biology, Henry Thompson in religion, Carsten and Esther Woll in music, and E. A. Cooke in physical education and health.

President Boe stated frequently that he was fortunate to become head of an institution with a strong faculty in departments well established and with years of effective service ahead of them. He often remarked that he foresaw as one of St. Olaf's greatest future problems the replacement of these men and women with people of like caliber who would have the same devotion not only to academic achievements within their departments but also to the basic principles and purposes of the college which serve as such a strong unifying force within the institution. Associated with these St. Olaf builders, as this collegiate building group has often been labeled, is a long roster of able assistants and instructors. Each is due an expression of gratitude.

In the early years of Dr. Boe's presidency other builders belonging to the "old school" were added. Among these are Martin Hegland, Agnes Larson, Karen Larsen, Nora Solum, Ella Hjertaas Roe, Marie Melmin Meyer, Theodore Jorgenson,

Carl B. Helgen, Theodore Huggenvik, Arthur Paulson, John Bly, Oscar and Gertrude Overby, Grace Holstad, Esther Gulbrandson, Peter Fossum, Johan Arndt Bergh, Adolph Engstrom, Arthur Lee, Sever Klaragard, Olava Bækken, Adrian Christenson, Frederick Bieberdorf, Elizabeth Kelsey, Charlotte Donhowe, H. B. Hanson, Clarence Clausen, Edward C. Jacobson, Hjalmar Lokensgaard, Anna Thykesen, Bert Narveson, Charles Weisheit, Clarence Carlson, Carl (Cully) Swanson, Mabel Shirley, and Arthur Solum.

Except for three recently retired faculty members I have listed only those who were added to the staff from 1874 through 1930 and who rendered the college an extended period of service. With the exception of one from the very early days of the college none served less than fifteen years. Most of them gave a life-time of devoted service to St. Olaf, from thirty years to more than forty, one, Olav Lee as many as fifty years. The great number of these builders are no longer among the living. A few, after many years at St. Olaf, took positions elsewhere; others have retired or will retire soon. With a faculty thus wholeheartedly committed to her program, St. Olaf was spared the disruptive influence of frequent turn-over in her faculty during her growing-up years and could move steadily, even though at times slowly, forward. This has been one of her greatest sources of strength. She is fortunate in having also today dedicated men and women who continue to build in the same spirit.

The following incidents are cited as illustrative of the dedication to St. Olaf that characterized these men and women and their colleagues as well as many of their successors.

When the 1920 St. Olaf Lutheran Choir returned in May from its first triumphal invasion of the East, morning classes were dismissed so that the student body could greet the singers and their director on their arrival at the Milwaukee Station. On their return to the campus all gathered in the festively garlanded Hoyme Chapel for a special welcome home program. The response by Dr. F. Melius Christiansen, while it cannot be exactly quoted was essentially and characteristically as follows: We have many kinds of trees on our campus which are symbolic of our basic academic program. The oaks, for example, represent the natural sciences; the elms, history and the other social sciences; the maples, the languages and literature; the

pinus and spruces, religion. Among all these towering trees we find some lovely flowers that also express the spirit of St. Olaf. The choir took some of this St. Olaf spirit as represented by these flowers to the East and the folks there seemed to like it.

After Dr. Christiansen became nationally known, he received many offers from other educational institutions and musical foundations which he regularly turned down. Then one day in chapel President Boe reported a recent offer that Dr. Christiansen had received. It was one that involved both a salary four times as much as he was getting at St. Olaf and the opportunity to devote most of his time to composing, which then was his major interest. President Boe went on to say he had told Dr. Christiansen that in the face of such an offer he had nothing to say, that it would be a great loss to St. Olaf to have him leave, but he could make no attempt to dissuade him since we could in no way compete with such an offer. Dr. Christiansen had replied that he wanted to think it over. The next day he reported to President Boe in these words, "I am staying at St. Olaf. I like it here."

Dr. Karen Larsen was teaching at Mt. Holyoke College when she was asked to join the history staff at St. Olaf. In a letter to me telling of her acceptance she wrote, "I am happy to come to St. Olaf because I have faith in her and in her program of Christian education."

One summer we learned that Dr. C. A. Mellby was going east to investigate an offer he had received to teach history of art, his favorite field, at the University of Pittsburgh. Others had unsuccessfully tried to woo him away from St. Olaf, but this offer was so tempting that he felt it merited his most careful consideration. We waited with almost bated breath for his decision on his return. He reported enthusiastically about the excellence of the department, the exceptionally fine facilities provided for his work, the tempting salary. "But," he continued, "I didn't accept the offer. I am too deeply rooted in St. Olaf and her program."

Of all these early builders, their colleagues, and many of their successors it may be said, "Theirs was not a job, but a mission."

“Loyal and Faithful”

AN EXAMINATION of the annual *St. Olaf College Directory*, which lists the names and addresses of faculty, administration, employees, and students reveals some interesting facts. We learn for example that the number of employees in the area outside of faculty and administration now constitutes almost one-half of the college staff. St. Olaf has been exceptionally fortunate in the loyal and devoted service of its non-academic employees, the members of the grounds crew, the food service personnel, the custodians, housekeepers, engineers, carpenters, plumbers, painters, and the many others without whose services the college could not have functioned.

There have been some very interesting personalities in this group. Oldtimers will remember Lewis Larson, who in 1906 became college dray man. At that time the central power plant had coal burning furnaces. Almost daily Lewis could be seen driving his team up unpaved St. Olaf Avenue as he hauled the coal for the power plant, the groceries for the kitchen, the supplies for the bookstore. He was especially busy at the opening and closing of the school year. Students came by train in those days and brought their belongings for the year in a trunk. It was something to see the dexterity with which this slightly built man single-handedly swung the trunks up onto the dray. He often worked until midnight. At times his language was somewhat strong as he deposited the last load of trunks in the dormitory at the end of a fatiguing day.

Lewis Larson was a bachelor and had a room in Ytterboe

Hall. Every evening he would go out to the barn, now long since converted into the present football dressing room (first facetiously called Holstein Hall) to talk to his horses and see that they were comfortable for the night. They were his "children". Though they had to work overtime at the beginning and the end of the school year Lewis was most concerned that they should regularly have their necessary rest. Once when we were putting on a pageant, one episode of which required a prairie schooner, we asked Lewis if we could borrow his horses to pull the schooner across the athletic field then located west of old Mohn Hall. The pageant was set for seven o'clock. Helpful though he always was, he refused, saying that his horses worked from seven in the morning until six at night except for time off at noon, and after that they were to do no more work! Even in our disappointment we could not but respect him for his concern for his horses.

Students of more recent years even up to the present will remember Joe Rodrick and Thor Vangen, successors of Lewis Larson in the hauling and trucking business. Thor Vangen's untimely death during the summer of 1967 after some thirty years of service saddened the entire campus community. Hardly a faculty member or student had not been the beneficiary of this always happy, friendly, buoyant personality's helpfulness. Thor was the local campus trucker hauling bleachers to and from athletic field and gymnasium, chairs at commencement time, furniture in and out of dormitories, luggage for students, and campus supplies of every kind.

Joe Rodrick did largely long distance trucking, hauling supplies to St. Olaf farms in North and South Dakota and Minnesota, and cattle and grain and the like from farms to market or to Northfield. In his forty-one years of trucking (he had served for six years on the food service staff before that), he drove two million miles without an accident. For many years Joe Rodrick would come to the campus early on Memorial Day with his truck to take Mrs. Ytterboe, me, and the members of the Student Senate with the flowers they had gathered to Oaklawn cemetery to decorate the St. Olaf graves.

Then there was Abraham Vold, one of our early engineers. Though largely self-taught, he was a natural mechanic and many a time one would find him surrounded by a group of college

physics students explaining some of the principles of mechanics. Slow of speech, lumberingly deliberate in movement, he had his own way of doing things and some of his innovations were strange and wonderful. He was employed during the years preceding and following World War I. Those were years of careful economizing. Abraham was economical by nature and made many things "do" which could not have passed an examining board. One of his favorite economy measures was to alternate turning on the steam heat to the different buildings. I recall one cold Sunday morning when after the early morning warm-up the heat was turned off in Mohn Hall. I expostulated with him and told him that not only did the girls in the building have to put on bath robes or coats over their dresses but some even had to crawl into bed to keep warm. His unruffled reply was "They should be in church." Yes, Abe had many oddities but he was friendly, helpful, hardworking and deeply devoted to the college.

In the fall of 1917 Sr. Ovidia Olson joined the St. Olaf staff as college nurse. At that time the college hospital was located on the site of the present Rølvaag Memorial Library. It was built in 1908, the gift of the St. Olaf Association which was composed of ex-students. To begin with it was used only as an isolation facility for contagious illnesses. Much of the time it was vacant. Since campus housing for women students was very limited, the building was for several years used as a small dormitory and called Manitou Cottage. In 1916 it was decided to put the building to its intended use as a college infirmary with a resident nurse in charge. Sister Nettie Wiggen came to us from the Deaconess Home in Chicago and was replaced the following year by Sr. Ovidia Olson. She it was who really laid the foundation for our Health Service. For a number of years she was the only college health official. In case of any serious student illness, local doctors were called. In 1928 Dr. E. R. Cook of the department of physical education became director of student health.

Sr. Ovidia looked very much the Deaconess. Her neat habit, white for work and black for dress topped by her white starched cap became her well. She was tall, dignified, calm, and serene in speech and manner, interested in community and public affairs as well as in her immediate field of Christian and

professional services. She had a delightful sense of humor. Sr. Ovidia could be penetrating in her questioning if necessary but most comforting in her ministrations. She entered wholeheartedly into the life of the college. I recall among many other incidents a football game played on the old field on a slushy snowy day. In the front row of the bleachers sat Sr. Ovidia under her umbrella with the melting snow dripping from the tips of the umbrella ribs. She watched the game to the very end.

It was natural that her treatment of various common complaints would be discussed by the students. Many knew of epsom salts but only as a remedy taken internally for a very specific purpose. When, however, students suffering with poison ivy rash, or some type of swelling or abrasion reported that epsom salts was prescribed without stating that it was in the form of a wet poultice or in a solution for soaking the affected member, it became almost a campus by-word that Sr. Ovidia's cure-all was epsom salts! She was an excellent nurse, a wonderful, selfless woman ministering to both the body and spirit of those in her care.

The ranking custodian at St. Olaf for many years was Böie Boe, one of a number of campus workers who came to us from Norway. His first assignment was Mohn Hall where he not only swept and mopped and in the winter shovelled snow but also served as a general handy man to the girls in the building when they needed help of any kind—from getting bricks for setting up book cases in their rooms to assisting them in getting at their trunks in the crowded store room.

His tenure at the college was interrupted by a year's overseas service in World War I. In 1920 he was put in charge of the newly completed Gymnasium. In addition to his usual custodial duties he became adept in supervising the student workers who set up and took down chairs before and after chapel, concerts, and other evening events.

From the Gymnasium he advanced to Holland Hall when it was ready for use. Besides classrooms and laboratories, Holland Hall housed the administrative offices. Dr. Boe was president at the time. The story goes that helpfully answering a telephone call in the president's office one day when no one was there Böie said, "No, This is *vice president* Boe." And so he became labelled. Now he was not only custodian of a building but was

also in charge of the store of custodial supplies, which he dispensed as needed to custodians of the various buildings.

"Pete" (L. P. Pederson), towering, impressive looking but most understanding and genial was in charge of the Gymnasium for the next twenty-nine years after Böie Boe left the building.

In 1941 the Rølvaag Memorial Library, later enlarged by the Felland Wing, was completed and Böie was promoted to the custodianship of this building where he and his wife Ragna also had their living quarters. The final rung of Böie's upward climb was reached when he became the first custodian of the beautiful Boe Memorial Chapel. Böie retired in 1953 after 40 years of service. Jolly, friendly, and with such a diversity of contacts, "vice president Boe" will be long remembered by a large group of St. Olafites.

He was a dapper, slightly built man of some sixty years with twinkling eyes, bushy eyebrows, and soft gray hair. We didn't see much of Pa Jorgenson, father of Mrs. P. G. Schmidt, for most of his work was done in the college carpenter shop. However, we had friendly chats with him when he came to install the articles he had made or to stain the entrance doors of the dormitory. What we especially remember, however, is how he came every spring with his pouch of grass seed slung over his shoulder and proceeded to scatter the seed under the trees in front of Mohn Hall where the grass never seemed to thrive. He was the spit and image of the man in the picture familiar to all of us from our Bible histories of the "sower who went out to sow the seed." And Pa Jorgenson never seemed to become discouraged because the seed was so often tramped down by student feet and the ground remained bare. Each spring he returned to sow his seed again.

Marty Fossum is a St. Olaf personality beloved by generations of St. Olaf students. He began his career when the book store was located within its limited confines in the basement of Old Main. The move from Old Main to the spacious new quarters in the Library in 1942 meant greatly expanded services. The management of the Lion's Den was included in Marty's responsibilities. Now with the greatly increased space provided in its present location in the St. Olaf Center its services have not only expanded but have been multiplied. Because of the efforts of Marty and the assistant manager, Miss Frances Green, to

meet every type of student need, the college book store is a fascinating combination of post office, book and art store, gift shop, notion counter, and drug store.

Unperturbed and unhurried in the midst of the business of the place Marty seemed to find time for all sorts of extra personal services: wrapping big packages for mailing, making his paper cutting machine available to his customers, and in dozens of similar ways helping them out. It was a strange day on the Hill when Marty retired from his many years as bookstore manager.

For some twenty years between World War I and World War II tall, white-haired Mrs. Julia Tronbol served as the motherly matron of Ytterboe Hall Boarding club. She came to St. Olaf to fill a vacancy as a laundress. One day when the pastry cook was ill she was asked if she could make pies. She modestly answered that she though she could. Her pies were so good that she was immediately transferred from the laundry to the kitchen and in a short time was made matron.

Mrs. Tronbol had a wonderful way with people. Soft spoken and with a quiet chuckle she enlisted the loyal services of all her staff. She took a personal interest in all the boys that worked for her as waiters or in the kitchen. Many a financial lift was quietly given by her to students in need. Always there was coffee in mid-morning for the grounds men who had been at work since seven o'clock. Serving for many years on her staff and long after she retired should be mentioned Rachel Eide, Mrs. Böie Boe of meatball fame, Hilda Guttormsen, and Clara Wilberg, who is still on the food service staff, as are the Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gunderson. He has headed the bakery for years and provided real "home-made" bread.

In this connection tribute is also due some of the long time faithfuls in Mohn Cafeteria, among whom may be mentioned the always cheerfully beaming Mrs. Dagny Rian; Miss Evelyn Knutson, whose pies were unsurpassed; the gracious managers and hostesses, Mrs. Charlotte Burr Johnson, Miss Mildred Henderson, and longest-serving of all, Miss Lajla Glasoe. There are others that should be mentioned but we shall have to leave it with a thank you to all who have contributed to the operation of the college through these various services and conclude with a glimpse at the activities of one who has served in more

capacities and over a longer period of time than any of the others: John Berntsen.

John has given St. Olaf over fifty years of devoted service. As carpenter and furniture maker he made and installed shelves, book and display cases, and cabinets in one building after another; for years he cut meat for the food services; as superintendent of grounds he planted trees and flower beds, built sidewalks and saw to it that the ever-expanding campus grounds were mowed and kept in order; as superintendent of buildings he supervised the custodians, attended to the necessary painting and refurbishing and responded to emergency calls night or day; as general utility man and construction director he supervised his men in moving pianos, setting up and taking down stages in the gymnasium for concerts, plays, recitals, festivals, and graduations.

Beginning with the ground-breaking for the present Women's Gymnasium in 1919, and until he retired, he has handed the shovel to the ground-breaking official at the ceremonies for all the subsequently erected buildings. Particularly in very dry weather, in order to make it easier for the inexperienced digger, he often softened the area with water before hand. Hours did not count for John. It was a matter of getting the task done, and many times he and his men worked long and late to accomplish this. One of John's feats was to climb the flag pole on Old Main to paint it or to untangle a twisted cord for the flag. One final incident illustrates his resourcefulness. It was Saturday of a big football game in November. A heavy mantle of wet snow had fallen. The field would be very muddy and difficult to play on. John got his men together and in the style of building snowforts they rolled huge snow balls down the field and cleared it in time for the game! Among those working closely with John Berntsen through many years were his right hand man Clarence Bergo, now custodian supervisor; Robert Rasmussen, now foreman of grounds, and Arthur Johnson, gardener. Mr. Vernon Tripp succeeded the ever kindly, patient and courteous Knute Leidal as chief engineer and now is supervisor of the physical plant.

Student Life

STUDENT LIFE! What a kaleidescopic picture it presents! Exacting study, demanding laboratory and library assignments and all that goes with the pursuit of academic achievement. But also much more. Opportunities to participate in a variety of extracurricular activities: social, religious, dramatic athletic, musical, and the like. It is a far cry from that lone out-of-door trapeze bar by Old Main that constituted the gymnasium in the early 1880's to the present Skoglund Athletic Center. But baseball teams were organized early, and games with Carleton, Shattuck, and other outside teams were played regularly. From these simple beginnings our present extensive physical education and athletic programs developed through the years.

Music has always been an integral part of St. Olaf life and many an informal and formal music group has throughout the years added color and inspiration to campus life. So too, have the voluntary religious organizations, Bible study classes, mission study groups, Wednesday evening L.D.R. (Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation) and Lutheran Brotherhood devotional meetings, and now the Student Congregation. All have given depth to the students' spiritual life and have offered varied opportunities for Christian service. But this is not to be a history of such organizations or student activities, just some random accounts and facts that might give a glimpse of student life in earlier days.

For some twenty-five years from the 1900's on, much of the extra-curricular activity of the students was centered in the

literary societies. Originating with ABX (Alpha Beta Chi) founded in 1888 and shortly followed by the Gamma Delta (1900), the Alpha Kappa (1906), and later by others as the number of students grew, the men's societies were the training ground for the college debaters and orators. There was no speech department in the college for many years. Though the subjects for debate were at times lightweight and frivolous, ordinarily they were of substantial and serious nature. When it came to the annual inter-society debates, there was debate at its best. Though a process first of debates within the society, an affirmative and a negative team were selected by each society. These participated in a regular inter-society tournament to determine which affirmative and which negative team should represent the college in the inter-collegiate debate. Interest in debate ran high among the students. On several occasions classes were called off for the day in order to give them the opportunity to attend the tournament held in the classrooms of Old Main, and they attended en masse.

It was, however, when the inter-collegiate debates were on that there was much excitement. While not as vociferous, feeling was almost as intense as at any football game of more recent years. The Chapel was packed on these occasions.

But even more exciting, if possible, were the annual oratorical contests. First there was a contest in February, promoted by Mr. A. K. Ware of the Ware Auditorium (now the Grand Theater), between Carleton and St. Olaf, with each college represented by three seniors. Monetary prizes for the first three places were awarded. This was the big event of the second semester and the Auditorium was filled with students and faculty from both colleges and as many of the townsfolk as could get in. Representatives of the senior classes of the two colleges and their dates sat in the upper tier of boxes of the Auditorium, each properly identified with a large pennant of the institution represented. The tension of the moment when the presiding officer was to announce the decision of the group was almost excruciating. Sometimes St. Olaf won first place and sometimes Carleton. When St. Olaf won, there was always a group of couriers who rushed up the Hill and lit a hopefully pre-arranged bonfire in front of Old Main around which the student body assembled after their long march from the Auditorium, singing all the way:

All Hail St. Olaf, St. Olaf, St. Olaf
All Hail St. Olaf, St. Olaf, St. Olaf
Hail to St. Olaf, St. Olaf, St. Olaf
Long live St. Olaf, St. Olaf, St. Olaf . . .

When all had gathered there were impromptu speeches of jubilation and congratulations culminating with a rousing round of the official college yell:

Eh! Ah! Ah! Oh!
Yah! Yah! Yum! Yo!
AnaKanick! Kanick! Kanick!
Waho Manitou! Rick! Rick! Rick!
Arrapah! Arrapah! Alamaha!
St. Olaf! St. Olaf! Hi-Orah!

St. Olaf on the whole did very well in oratory. Once St. Olaf won all three first places. The audience went wild. The boys rushed upon the stage and tossed the speakers high in the air. One sedate, tall, and angular orator with long arms and legs made quite a picture as he was bounced over their heads by his fellow students. Of course there followed the usual bonfire, singing and cheering, and even more. The students gathered in front of the president's house and chanted, "We want a holiday." Just why they should have it might be a question. But so important was this victory to them that it seemed to merit something extra.

The highest ranking Carleton and St. Olaf orators in the Ware contest automatically represented their colleges in the State contest which was regularly held in March. The State winner went on to the Inter-state contest which was usually held at some institution quite far from Northfield.

In 1910 Sigurd Sorenson won both the local Ware and the State contests and so became Minnesota's representative to the Inter-state which that year was held at Gustavus Adolphus College. Since this contest was to be held so nearby, arrangements were made for a special train to take the student body of 500 to St. Peter for the event. And then tragedy struck! We got the smallpox and the entire college was quarantined. The only ones permitted to go to the contest were the speaker, Sigurd Sorenson, and his coach, C. O. Solberg. But the spirit of the students was undaunted. It was common in those days to write parodies of songs or poems for all sorts of occasions. This was certainly one that called for expression. The following songs are illustrative of the "poetry" produced:

Someone to have the smallpox
Some one to stay at home,
Some one to do the cheering,
When the good news has come.
Bonfires burning
At the returning
For Sorenson.

O, we have the smallpox
And quarantined are we,
The doctor comes to vaccinate
And draw from us his fee.
Formaldehyde and vaccine
And all the other stuff
To scare away the mi-cro-bes
And all the other toughs.

Smallpox, smallpox,
Tralalalalalala
O we have got the smallpox
Tralalalalalala.

On the evening of the contest just before he was going on the stage to give his famous and later oft-repeated oration on St. Paul, Sigurd Sorenson was handed this telegram, "St. Peter, St. Olaf, St. Paul, S. T. Sorenson. This combination spells victory. Five hundred students and a million microbes behind you." And a victory it was. The next morning there was a half holiday. Representative students were permitted to go down to the Milwaukee Station to meet the victor and his coach and to draw them in a decorated "chariot" up to the campus where they were welcomed by all the unhospitalized students with cheers and songs. Bunting and slogans draped the buildings. Whether they knew Norwegian or not, all sang lustily to the tune of Norway's national anthem:

Ja vi elsker Sorenson
Jamen gör vi saa,
Han er fra St. Olaf College
Det kan du forstaa,
Ja, han vandt, han vandt, han vandt,
Og vi blev saa hjertens glade
Her paa Manitou
Og vi blev saa hjertens glade
Glade her paa Manitou.

Baseball games, basketball games, debates were exciting, but this was the most thrilling event of that year.

Something further should be recorded about the contribution literary societies made during the period of their greatest

activity. We have mentioned debate as one of the major activities of the men's societies. The women too had their organizations. In the Academy there was the *Utile Dulci*. When the enrollment of college women increased, the *Minerva* was organized with membership composed of all the women of the college department. Later the name was changed to Phi Kappa Phi. Then came the Delta Chi in 1909. By that time there were three men's societies to the women's two: the ABX, the Alpha Kappa, and the Gamma Delta. In order to provide a few more social occasions the ABX, the oldest men's society, asked the Phi Kappa Phi, the oldest among the women's organizations, to be its "sister society." This proposal was happily accepted. Then the Alpha Kappa and Gamma Delta extended similar invitations to the Delta Chi. That posed a problem for the Delta Chi, for they were faced with a choice. Since Alpha Kappa was the newer men's society and the Delta Chi the newer women's society, the decision was made on this impersonal numerical basis and the Alpha Kappa became the brother society of the Delta Chi. Meanwhile in 1911 the men's Pi Sigma Alpha and the women's Nu Sigma Rho were organized to provide for the increasing number of students. By this time the brother and sister society tradition had been established. Again Gamma Delta extended an invitation, this time to the Nu Sigma Rho. But so also did the new Pi Sigma Alpha. Since they were the newest women's society, the Nu Sigma Rhos decided they would accept the invitation of the newest men's society. Besides their names sounded rather impressive together. After these rebuffs the Gamma Delta decided it would remain a bachelor society and make no more overtures to the women.

The societies met weekly in classrooms assigned to them in Old Main. Saturday evenings from 7 to 9 o'clock the place hummed with activity. In their quarters on third floor and part of second the men debated and orated. The women on first floor and part of second had their program of papers, readings, discussions, music, and sometimes debates, mock or serious. One feature of almost every meeting was a couple of "impromptus" when two or three members were called upon to discuss some subject sprung upon them at the moment. This was a regular procedure in initiating new members. Later in order to make this type of public speaking more meaningful, impromptu sub-

jects would be taken from the current issue of a designated magazine or an area of interest specified before the meeting. Regularly a faculty member was invited to serve as a critic of the program. He would comment on the individual numbers and on the program as a whole, give suggestions for improvement where needed and correct mispronunciations.

Once or twice a year there would be a joint meeting of the brother and sister society. Every year there was a banquet with the men as hosts one year and the women the next. Most of these banquets were held in St. John's church parlors and served by the Ladies Aid. Expenditures for these banquets were strictly limited by the faculty social committee. One of the nice features of the brother and sister society arrangement was that for such occasions no one was left out. There were no personally chosen dates. The men drew by lot, or however else they chose to arrange it, the girl for whom they were to serve as escort for the evening. Once in a while there might have been some finagling on the part of some of the young men to get certain girls for their dates. There was of course suppressed excitement among the young women as to who would call to tell them that they were their date for the evening. This arrangement worked well for many years and made possible interesting and varied social contacts. At length, however, the time came when the men wanted to invite someone special outside the society membership when they were hosts and likewise some of the young women wanted to invite as guest someone outside of the brother society when it was their turn. After that the brother and sister society arrangement became more tenuous, and finally was discontinued.

During the earlier years it was customary for all the societies to join in putting on a public program to which the new students were invited. The women's societies particularly developed some interesting traditional numbers, some of the nature of operettas, others in the form of dramatic, poetic narratives, and the like. One recalls particularly "The Phi Kappa Phi Fantasy," Delta Chi's "The Feast of the Red Corn," and Nu Sigma Rho's "The Toy Shop."

One of the cooperative contributions of some of the brother and sister societies was the presentation of plays. There was no drama department at the time. It is interesting to note for many

years the literary societies served as the medium through which interest in drama and debate, musicals as well as sundry other literary efforts were given opportunity for expression. As these various areas of interest were by degrees given departmental status in the college or taken over by departmental clubs, the societies lost much of their original purpose. Nor could the students give the time to them that was formerly possible. Hence those that do exist have now become largely social groups. However, under the direction of the Inter-Society Board they continue to contribute to a number of worthy all-college projects, variety programs, benefits, and the like.



Miss Hilleboe announced her retirement from St. Olaf in 1958. She has continued to live in Northfield in her home on Lincoln Street, where she has a view of the campus and its ever-changing skyline.

In 1951 St. Olaf College paid homage to the author by naming a new women's dormitory Gertrude M. Hilleboe Hall. Pictured with her as she spoke at the building's dedication is the Rev. Melford Knutson, then a member of the Board of Trustees.

In 1965 a portrait of the author to be hung in Hilleboe Hall was presented to St. Olaf by Mr. I. D. Fink and Mr. Leo Gross. The portrait was painted by Ted Mohn, son of the first president of the college.





Ladies Hall was rebuilt from the original downtown building which first housed St. Olaf's School. It was the only dormitory for women from 1879 until Mohn Hall was completed. This photo was taken in April, 1911, just one month before construction began on Mohn Hall (Page 51).



It was a memorable day when on May 24, 1911 Preceptress Georgina Dieson (Mrs. Martin Hegland) turned the first spadeful of earth to begin construction of Mohn Hall (page 53).



The cornerstone of the old Mohn Hall was laid on June 13, 1911. President Kildahl is at the left. President T. H. Dahl of the United Church is at the right.

In 1918 this photo labeled "Mohn Hall Overflowing" was used to dramatize the need for additional campus housing for women (Page 65).





For many years the athletic fields were located on what is now the front lawn of Agnes Mellby Hall. This photo approximated the view of the field as seen by the author when she watched a tornado bear down on the Hill, only to split in two at the last instant and leave the campus untouched (Page 117).

Traditionally graduating seniors have joined with alumni in repeating the alumni pledge as part of their acceptance into the Alumni Association. On the lawn between Hoyme Chapel and Old Main Herman Roe, '08, administers the alumni pledge to the Class of 1919 (page 114).



Mrs. G. T. Rygh was the first housemother in Agnes Mellby Hall (page 70).



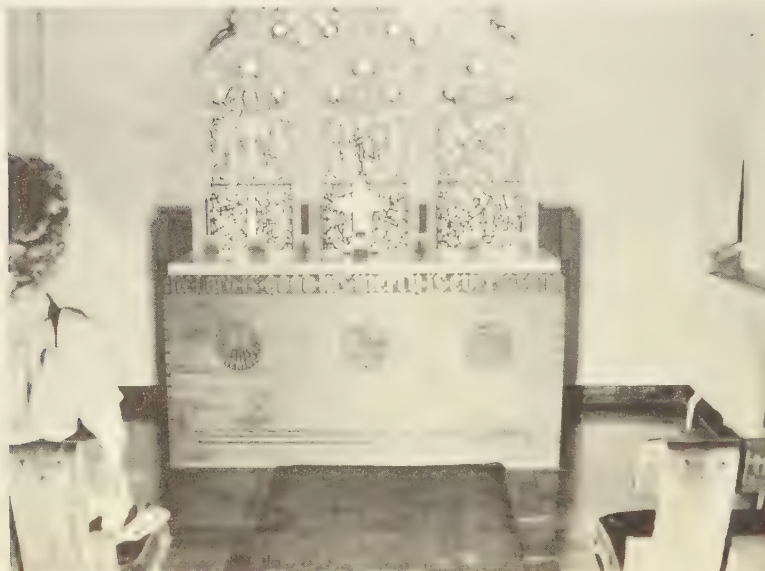
Hoyme Memorial Chapel was built in 1906 and served as the college chapel until it was destroyed by fire in 1923. The lectern at the left and the grand piano at the right were among the few furnishings saved from the fire and both are still in use on the campus (page 41).





The cornerstone of the Science and Administration Building (later named Holland Hall) was laid on September 4, 1924. Circled from left to right are P. O. Holland, the author, President L. W. Boe and Professors P. M. Glasoe and Erik Hetle, pioneer builders of the college's science program (Page 45).

The little chapel in Agnes Mellby Hall has been the scene of private meditation, corridor devotions, and not a few weddings. The altar and benches were made by John Berntsen and carved by Arnold Flaten. The stained-glass windows were the gift of the Women's League of St. Olaf (Page 67).



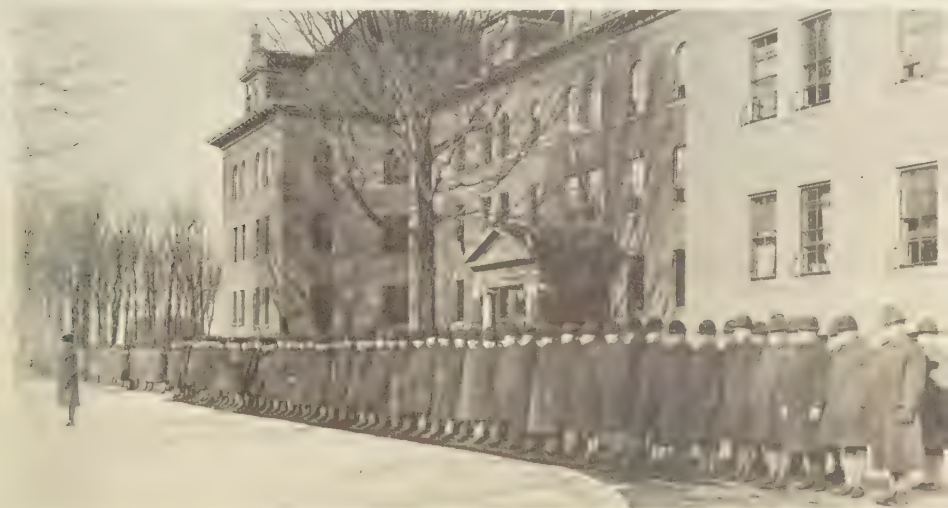


Above: The author, shown to left of the flag-bearer, directed the women's Red Cross activities during World War I (Page 31).



Left: When the dread Spanish influenza hit the campus during World War I, beds were moved in and Old Main was transformed into a dormitory for the men who were not sick. The sick students were cared for in Ytterboe Hall. (Page 37).

In two world wars, Ytterboe Hall became the headquarters for military units training on the campus. In 1918 the S.A.T.C. took over the building, which had to be transformed into a hospital during the tragic influenza epidemic (page 33).





Many of the personalities cited by the author as "Builders of St. Olaf" are pictured in this photo taken in April, 1925.

First Row: J. Jorgen Thompson, Olav Lee, Miss Hilleboe, O. G. Felland, President Boe, F. Melius Christiansen, P. O. Holland, P. M. Glasoe, George Berg

Second Row: Anna Drotning, Comfort Hinderlie, Ella Hjertaas, Arthur O. Lee, I. F. Grose, O. E. Rolvaag, C. A. Mellby, Martin Hegland, Emil Ellingson

Third Row: H. M. Thompson, Julius Boraas, Erik Hettle, Paul Bollenbacher, George Ellingson, Hilda Hedsted, Rev. Carl E. Nordberg, E. T. Tufte

Fourth Row: William Benson, Adolph Engstrom, Olaf Thormodsgard, Mrs. G. W. Spohn, Thelma Torgrimson, George Weida Spohn, Florence Haasarud, Marie M. Meyer, Alice Lightbourne, Endre Anderson

Fifth Row: Sr. Ovidia, Edwin Brye, Adelaide Hjertaas Roe, Charles Koella, Clarence Clausen, Nils Flaten, Edward Schmidt

Sixth Row: Christopher J. Hamre, Arthur Solum, Esther Gulbrandson, Julia Post, Peter Fossum, E. R. Cooke, J. D. Menchofer, Karen Larson, Martin Nordgard.

Ytterboe Hall Boarding Club

LIFE IN Ytterboe Hall was, for its residents, typical of that of any men's dormitory at the time. In earlier years there were the usual regulations governing group living, basically concerned with thoughtfulness and consideration for the rights of others as well as for one's own best development. So there were room inspections, study hours in the afternoon till five o'clock to be resumed again at seven. You knew when it was five o'clock by the music that emanated from Ytterboe. All the boys who were in the band began practicing on their instruments and continued until supper. Bedtime was at 10:00 p.m.

But Ytterboe Hall served as much more than a residence for men. Since there was no music hall, the piano and voice studios were for many years located on first floor. The living room was the social center of the college, where teas and receptions were held.

All-college social gatherings were held in the gymnasium (now the drama studio) and the refreshments were served in the dining room. Many a famous and exciting basketball game was played in that gymnasium with the spectators seated on the bleachers at both ends of the room.

After the Chapel fire in 1923, this old gym (which had been replaced in 1920 by the present Women's Gymnasium) replaced the physics laboratory, housed in the basement of the Chapel, until Holland Hall was built.

The theory of music classes which had met in the Chapel music room were conducted in Ytterboe Hall lounge. During

the Student Army Training Corps period of the First World War, this gymnasium served as a Lutheran Soldiers Service Center with Dean H. M. Thompson in charge. With the large number of veterans and other men enrolled following the Second World War, this room housed forty men, barracks style. Eventually the old gym was renovated and became our present Drama Studio.

The dining room in Ytterboe Hall was for many years a real institution. To begin with it provided dining facilities for the entire student body. The students were seated by classes, seniors at the south end, freshman at the north with the other classes between. Board was simple; desserts were few. To satisfy one's craving for sweets, most of the students topped off their noon meal with syrup or brown sugar on bread. The syrup jug was always available. But on Sundays when Eivind Storholt was chef, there was superb chocolate pie. Pancakes for breakfast were a treat and were served to a few tables at a time until all had had their turn. Coffee for dinner, the noon meal, was a senior privilege.

After awhile the long tables for sixteen people were shortened to tables for eight. When Miss Carrie Eide and later Mrs. Julia Tronbol became managers of the dining room, the Sunday dinners became famous for their delicious pork chops and gravy and especially for the fruit salad. Many a mother on visiting the campus asked for the recipe for the St. Olaf fruit salad about which her son or daughter had raved!

As the student body grew, additional dining facilities were needed and Mohn Hall cafeteria was opened to provide for the three upper classes. Ytterboe Hall which continued to serve family-style table-board became the freshman dining room. This proved to be one of the finest social agencies for the freshmen. Here they were brought together daily in the normal process of breaking bread together. They were assigned to specific tables by the head waiter, when possible four boys and four girls; but if this did not work out exactly, no more than five of one sex. After three weeks the students were reassigned for another three-week period. This procedure was followed throughout the year so that by spring every one had sat at a table with every other member of the class for at least three weeks. In that time he had made at least a passing acquaintance with the other members of his class. The three-week assignments were made

for Monday through Friday. On Saturdays and Sundays the students were free to sit with whomever and wherever they pleased.

It was customary for the students to take turns sitting at the head and the foot of the table and for the one at the head to serve the meat, potatoes and gravy, while the one at the foot served the vegetable and beverages, coffee or milk. While not all the students appreciated this arrangement, on the whole those who look back upon their days in the freshman dining room regard their experiences there as among the most valued of their extra-curricular program. There were of course always those that wanted to transfer to the Mohn Hall cafeteria because the Ytterboe menu was so "starchy." At the cafeteria they could choose! Many a girl did put on poundage after she got into the regularity of the routine of college life. But interestingly enough it was a common observation that many of those who complained of starchy menus were the ones who indulged liberally between meals and in the evenings on snacks of cakes and cookies from home, ice cream, and other calorie-filled foods!

During World War II Ytterboe Hall dining room served as the Navy mess hall. Following the war the Annex was added which doubled the dining area. However, the greatly increased student body necessitated that the family style of meals of Boarding Club days be supplanted by the cafeteria service instituted with the Navy. It still was possible, however, to use the facilities for class banquets and other similar festive occasions.

Off from the main dining area of the Annex was a smaller room seating up to fifty people, known as the Nordic Room. This room was especially attractive because of its wall decorations, appropriate Norwegian sayings done in "rose-maling," the work of three of the faculty wives, Mrs. Martin Hegland, Mrs. Carl Swanson and Mrs., O. E. Shefveland. Many a luncheon and dinner was served in this room.

Ytterboe dining room was closed when the long-anticipated facilities of the St. Olaf Center became available.

War Comes to St. Olaf

APRIL 6TH, 1917! A state of war against Germany was declared in Washington! As in every nook and corner of a great nation, life on the campus of St. Olaf was revolutionized. Up went the flag on Old Main never to be taken down until after Armistice Day, except when worn by winds, suns, and rains it was replaced by an untarnished new one! It is customary now, as it was not then, to have the flag flying on Old Main every day that school is in session. And so in a special way those days the flag called forth and gave expression to the deep emotions that stirred us.

There was tension, a restless sense of uncertainty, and an eagerness to do something. There were rallies, parades, and drives of various kinds. One of the most colorful of these was the Red Cross parade. Women students dressed in Red Cross white aprons and head dress with bodices variously red or white or blue were led by the military band. With our towering Richard Hofstad, his height accentuated by his striped Uncle Sam outfit, carrying a huge American flag at the head, the procession marched down St. Olaf Avenue to Division Street. There it was joined by other groups participating in the big community parade on behalf of the Red Cross.

There were not too many activities that could be organized during the remaining weeks of the 1916-1917 school year. During the summer, however, I attended a session at the University of Wisconsin where a course in Red Cross work was offered that would qualify me as director of such work at St. Olaf. By

the time that college opened in the fall, we as a people were deeply involved in the war. Friends, relatives, fellow students, teachers had begun to enlist. While every effort was made to impress upon students that doing good work while attending college was also a form of patriotic service, they felt the need for doing something that involved them more directly. Particularly was this felt by the young women who had no opportunity to enlist in military service. As a consequence many of the trivia of extracurricular activities were dispensed with and the young women banded together in the St. Olaf Auxiliary of the Northfield chapter of the Red Cross.

Then the program began in earnest. A room in the west wing of Mohn Hall which had been a piano studio but now served as a reading room was converted into a surgical dressing room in which the young women under the direction of trained student supervisors made some 18,000 surgical dressings. Others learned to knit wristlets, mufflers, helmets, socks, and sweaters. Red Cross courses in first aid were organized. Similarly, courses in home nursing were taught by local R.N.'s. Food conservation classes under the direction of Miss Minnie Anderson, chairman of the home economics department, were required of every senior woman. The certificates awarded upon completion of the course, signed by the then Food Administrator, Herbert Hoover, are still prized by the recipients.

One evening the Boarding Club served a demonstration meatless, wheatless, and sugarless dinner at which the members of the faculty and their wives were guests. There were interesting vegetable dishes, fruit for dessert. But the conversation pieces were the peanut-rice "meat loaf" and the barley bread and gravy. Barley flour was regularly substituted for wheat in the Boarding Club menus "for the duration."

During the year a number of the college organizations gave up their usual winter or spring banquet and contributed the money that would have been spent on this to some war effort. They contributed generously to the various war drives: Red Cross, YMCA, Lutheran Soldiers and Sailors Commission, Victory Bonds, etc. The Women's Student Government Association drew up a voluntary War Time Service Pledge which a large majority of the women signed. Through these simple and unspectacular avenues of service our young women felt that they were doing

their bit in helping "to make the world safe for democracy." There was no question as to their earnestness or as to the patriotic fervor that dominated the Hill. Social gatherings had patriotic themes; the new songs "Over There," "Tipperary," "K-K-Katy," "There's a Long, Long Trail A-Winding" were added to the repertoire of community songs. "A Treasury of War Poetry" and other similar books made such poems as "Flanders Fields" and "I Have a Rendezvous with Death" household familiars. Ever closer and closer to us came the war as successive weekends during the winter and spring of 1918 saw one group after another of our men put aside their books and leave for the training camp. There were few left that June when college closed.

Because the War Service courses offered had been favorably received, a War Service Institute was set up for two-and-a-half weeks in June immediately following the close of school in 1918. This provided intensive training in the various areas of home war service for students going back into their home communities and also to anyone else in town or vicinity who wished to avail themselves of such an opportunity.

President L. A. Vigness, who had kept the course of the college steady during this first year of the war, resigned to accept the position of Executive Secretary of the Board of Education of the then Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, and L. W. Boe succeeded him as president of St. Olaf.

Then came the fall of 1918, never-to-be-forgotten by anyone connected with St. Olaf at that time.

About three weeks before the opening of college, St. Olaf was authorized by the War Department to participate in a new and rather hastily conceived program of organizing a Student Army Training Corps (S.A.T.C.). This meant that the men at the college, if physically fit, would be enrolled in this Corps, in a program combining academic and military training. It was a way to insure a somewhat normal enrollment of men and also to make use of college facilities for training men for military service. The Corps was to be an official Army unit and its members were U.S. soldiers. So now, Ytterboe Hall, the men's dormitory, was to become a barracks, the gym a U.S.O., the co-educational dining room an army mess hall with no girls allowed! How to provide for them? Fortunately when Mohn

Hall was built, the plans called for dining facilities for women in the east portion of the ground floor. But this spacious room and adjoining kitchen space had never been equipped for their original purposes. It had been used as a social center and had also served as the women's gymnasium.

The time had now come to put this area to the use for which it was intended. The necessary gas and electric connections had to be made, refrigerators and steam kettles installed. Stoves, kitchen utensils, work tables, dining room tables and chairs, and other equipment of many sorts had to be selected, purchased, delivered, and put in place! A staff had to be secured. Fortunately we were able to retain Miss Carrie Eide, who had been in charge of Ytterboe Hall dining room, and put her in charge of the new Mohn Hall refectory. This is one of the many occasions in the life of the college when one wants to pay tribute to the resourcefulness, drive, and cooperative spirit of P. O. Holland and John Berntsen. On the afternoon of the Sunday before school opened the finishing touches were being put on the dining room; white, crisp, just-finished curtains were being hung in the windows, plants placed on the sills, and Mohn Hall dining room was ready to receive its first contingent of diners.

It was strange at first not to make our usual three-times a day trek to Ytterboe Hall, but our new place was light, cheerful, attractive, and convenient. We liked it. But what it took time to adjust to was the composition of our group. With the exception of ten men we were a group of only girls and women. Of the ten men who ate with us, one was a foreigner, several were on crutches, and the rest were 4-F's.

This segregation at meals was illustrative of most of the college community life for the remainder of 1918. It was certainly a strange and bewildering collegiate world into which the freshmen, men and women alike, entered with no previous experience of a normal college life. In the morning we were awakened by reveille from Ytterboe barracks followed by the staccato roll count by the members of Company B and C drawn up in formation in front of Ytterboe Hall (Company A was at Carleton). During the day there was the "1, 2, 3, Hup" of drill and at night the haunting sound of taps. The men of the S.A.T.C. marched in formation from Ytterboe Hall to Old Main for their classes. Classes over, they re-formed on the steps of

Old Main and marched back to Ytterboe Hall. Most of their academic courses were such as War Aims, Military Sanitation, Communications, etc. At times the men were so tired from drill that they had difficulty in keeping awake in the classroom. These men were most fortunate in having a man like Dr. C. A. Mellby as their teacher in War Aims and Professor William Benson to serve as their immediate chief officer under Commandant Lieutenant Lord, whose headquarters were at Carleton. I might add that the young women had their classes in Old Main too, but they followed a conventional college program not shared by the men.

Sentries were always on duty outside of Ytterboe Hall, and time and again we would be startled by their sharp "Halt." The turf was worn thin where they walked their beat. No civilian passed that line unchallenged. So literally did some of them take their responsibility that until they learned better they challenged such officials of the college as President Boe and P. O. Holland, the business manager! There was an all-college mixer as I recall the first Saturday night of that school year, but from that time on there was complete segregation in classroom, at meal time, in activities, in chapel seating, in everything. It was as if there were two entirely separate educational institutions occupying the same campus and having some of the same instructors, but otherwise having nothing to do with each other. Just once did we break the barrier when we got the inspiration to convert Mohn Hall parlors into a Y.W.C.A. canteen for the afternoon and secured the permission of the Commandant for the S.A.T.C. men to come for coffee and doughnuts. They came, had their doughnuts and coffee, and most important of all, visits. And that was the co-educational social event of the season!

To make matters even more unnatural for our students that year, there were added to the abnormalities of a campus military camp those of a wide-spreading and frightening epidemic. The Spanish influenza that had been so devastating in Europe had come to America. People were dying by the hundreds. In many small towns and rural areas in the Middle West, exhausted doctors and nurses were unable to keep up with the needs for their services. Many of them became ill themselves. Entire families were stricken. Many were dying in nearby towns, some

after only a day or two of illness. People began to make comparisons with the Black Death that centuries ago ravaged Europe.

In view of the fact that so far there were no cases in Northfield and immediate vicinity (although communities not far away were hard hit), the college went into voluntary quarantine in the hopes that we might in this way avoid an epidemic on our campus. That meant that no one from the outside was permitted to come to the campus, no parents or friends, and that no student was allowed to go off-campus or beyond his place of residence if he lived off-campus. For any exception, which had to be a real emergency, a pass had to be secured. The cooperation of the students in maintaining this quarantine was simply superb. We did have a 6th of November (Founders Day) program that year which traditionally was also Homecoming. But the only visitor we had was the Reverend Gustav Stearns, Chaplain in the Army, who gave the address at the morning program and as soon as that was over was whisked off the campus, taken care of until train time, and then departed for his home.

Our quarantine seemed to be paying off well; for all around us came reports of the spread of the flu and its increasing severity, but no case had developed among us. Early in the morning of November 11 came a thundering knock on the front door of Mohn Hall. The major of Northfield, Mr. A. O. Netland, was there to inform us that an armistice had been declared. The word spread through the dormitory. In the joyous exuberance of that moment we had to celebrate in some special way. It was decided that we all go out to the brow of the Hill in front of Old Main and hold an impromptu festive service there. I shall never forget the combined solemnity and joy of those moments and the fervor of the singing of every patriotic song we knew, plus the closing "Now Thank We all Our God" and "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" in front of Old Main in the "dawn's early light."

In strange contrast to the joy and exaltation of those early morning hours came the harsh fact a few hours later that the Spanish influenza had come to our campus, that fifteen of our S.A.T.C. men were down with it, that our little college hospital was now already filled. What would we do to isolate and care for

others who would be taken ill?" Beds were set up temporarily in the large laboratory and classroom in the basement of the Chapel and on the rostrum in the Chapel proper. An S.O.S. went out to President Boe who was attending a meeting in New York City. He immediately got busy contacting the Army about doctors and nurses. Meanwhile arrangements were being made for flu vaccination of students and teachers. Our college nurse, Sister Ovidia, also came down with the flu after caring for patients a couple of days. A wonderful nurse, Miss Dora Langem, was secured to be in charge of the Chapel patients. Some of the girls who had taken the Red Cross Home Nursing Course volunteered to serve as aids and some of the boys as orderlies. Meanwhile more and more of the S.A.T.C. men became ill and the basement of the Chapel was one vast ward. Several additional nurses had been recruited by this time. Dr. Erik Giere of Minneapolis, one-time student at St. Olaf and long-time friend of the college, came to assist the local doctors. As a result of his recommendation classes were canceled for the time being, and the well boys moved from Ytterboe barracks to be quartered in the classrooms in Old Main. Ytterboe Hall became a hospital and the sick boys were transferred from Hoyme Chapel to individual rooms in Ytterboe. None of us who witnessed it will ever forget the sight of the sick boys being carried on stretchers from the Chapel to Ytterboe in an almost continuous procession for an entire afternoon.

Everything now centered on the care of the sick and the prevention of further spread of the epidemic. Frantic parents telephoned for their children to come home, but now there were absolute quarantine restrictions. No one was permitted to leave. By this time we had a large emergency staff assembled, an Army doctor from Ft. Leavenworth, Dr. Douglas S. Scrivener, and ten nurses. From that point of view, students who became ill could be far more assured of good care than if they were in their home communities.

The girls were kept busy making flu masks and pneumonia jackets although most of the latter were made by the Northfield Red Cross women. The home economics girls helped the overworked kitchen staff, made soups, cocoa, and other hot drinks for the patients. In between times they wrote letters, tried to work on the assignments given them for the interim, and

participated in such out-door sports activities as could be provided. Of wonderful assistance at this time too to the nursing staff and the boys was Mrs. Martin Romstad, mother of one of the most seriously ill, who came just to help and to be a mother to those who were ill.

Four of the boys died from flu complications within a few days of each other and many others hovered between life and death for several days, but recovered. Another picture indelibly etched on one's mind from those days is of a flag-draped coffin in a hearse just outside the Chapel, (we were not allowed to hold any funeral service inside the building), a five-minute sermonette and prayer by President Boe, the slow descent to the foot of the Hill accompanied by the Honor Guard, and then taps.

Four times within a week we gathered for such a farewell service.

As serious and sobering an experience as this epidemic was it did have an occasional humorous aspect. When it broke out there was a flurry to get "flu masks." These were made by the Red Cross girls. Everyone, faculty members and students, was provided with several masks each and told to wear them when in a group. The assemblage at chapel the next day with faculty members seated on the rostrum and students below facing them, all in masks, was an incongruous sight. But the time the group had managed to get through the opening hymn the situation had become almost hilariously funny, the more so because everyone was so serious about it all. Suffice it to say that after that chapel service the masks went off only to be put on by those who for one reason or another might be in contact with someone who was ill.

The administration of the flu vaccination also had its humorous aspects. This was done in Mohn Hall on a mass basis. That fall we were having a great deal of trouble with our lights in that building. Every once in awhile they would go out and candles would temporarily have to be used. It gets dark early in November. Right in the midst of the assembly-line vaccination the lights went out and everything was in darkness. The students were keyed-up and frightened enough anyway and this only added to their tension. In the darkness we heard first one thud and then another, to find when we got our candles lit that several had fainted but fortunately fallen unhurt to the floor.

At length the siege was over and classes were begun again. All this time the flu had been confined to the S.A.T.C. men and to some of the helpers caring for them. Then on December 6th one of the girls in Mohn Hall was reported ill and it was found she had contracted the dread disease. In order to avoid the possibility of another siege of the epidemic it was decided to close school immediately for the Christmas holidays on December 7th, a week before the scheduled date. And so ended, amid intense excitement, the pre-Christmas period of the abnormal school year 1918-1919. No Homecoming festivities, no college parties, no Christmas concert, but on the other hand a serious confrontation with some of life's basic realities that made of those college months a unique maturing experience.

When the Chapel Burned

IT WAS A BRIGHT September day in 1923. A slight haze rested on the horizon. There were splotches of gold and crimson on some of the maple trees, harbinger of the glory of the October days that would soon like a luminous halo encompass the Hill. The campus was strangely empty, for the students were at their noon meal in their respective dining rooms. Two of the faculty members, Dr. George Weida Spohn and Dr. E. R. Cook, came down the steps of Old Main, saw a wisp of smoke curling about the cross that surmounted the Chapel and discovered the building was afire. Suddenly the students' busy chatter was interrupted by the eerie wail of the fire alarm and the clang of the fire truck. Food was forgotten. There was a rush to the out-of-doors. A huge cloud of coiling black smoke was pouring from the roof of the Chapel. There was not much that was movable in that building (the seats, for example, were stationary opera seats), but many student volunteers rushed in to remove whatever they could.

A room adjoining the rostrum served as a classroom for the courses in Theory of Music. Much of the band and choir music was kept there. Out it went through the window! The physics department was located in the basement of the Chapel and some of the laboratory equipment was saved. But the sight that none of us will forget is that of the Mathushek grand piano, which stood on the rostrum, borne out the front door and down the Chapel steps on the shoulders of five or six freshman boys, and triumphantly planted on the lawn outside. How those boys ever

negotiated that piano down the long narrow aisle and over the opera seats will never be known. The piano and the speaker's walnut lectern were the only two items from the Chapel proper that were saved. They still are used for meetings held in the Gymnasium.

Meanwhile others among the men students were stationed with wet gunny sacks on the roofs of the nearby buildings, Old Main, Steensland Library, the Chemistry shack (long since taken down), to douse any flying sparks that might alight on them. The rest of us, students, faculty, townspeople, could only stand by helplessly watching the building burn. The fire department could do nothing, for there was no water pressure on the Hill, and when the men first turned on the hose only a pathetic little trickle emerged. A pipe organ had recently been installed in the Chapel, the gift of the Young People's Luther League of the Church. A veritable groan went up from the watchers when one protesting clanging pipe after another fell with a thud into the basement. The same was true when the two large stained-glass windows, gifts of the St. Olaf alumni, crashed into the smoke and flames below.

These windows were most meaningful to the students. The north window facing the campus and the Steensland Library had as its central figure a Viking ship plowing the stormy waves, the blown sail carrying the insignia I.H.S., and on the prow a cross instead of the usual crossbow and skull on a Viking vessel. Three white doves of peace accompanied the vessel. On either side was a lancet window, on one of which was pictured the tower of the Trondheim Cathedral and on the other the tower of Old Main, indicating that two of the Norwegian immigrants' most significant contributions to America were in the fields of religion and education. The other window on the south facing Norway Valley was given in memory of Professor H. T. Ytterboe. It pictured a serene starlit Bethlehem scene under which was inscribed his favorite scripture passage, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth."

By nightfall the building was practically razed. Only small portions of some of the walls rose above the basement level. In the basement it smoldered and burned fitfully during the night, but the Chapel was no more.

How much we owe to the Gymnasium and its staff, custodians,

and the college campus crew! Not only did the Gymnasium continue to serve the men's and women's physical education programs and inter-collegiate athletics, but it made room for all the extracurricular activities that formerly had taken place in the Chapel. The Gymnasium was daily cleared for chapel services, chairs were put up to be taken down again immediately following the chapel period. Years later when the Student Congregation was organized, the room had to be converted into a church for Sunday morning worship after the late Saturday night's activities which might range from basketball game or a class party to an all-college benefit carnival.

Similar quick adjustments had to be made for the series of Lenten services and other special religious observances. Student recitals, orchestra, band and choir concerts, lecture course numbers, dramatic productions, student body meetings, the spring music and Christmas festivals were all now transferred to the Gymnasium.

With the exception of home economics, the science classrooms and laboratories were originally located in Old Main. The need for additional space became acute. Both the chemistry and physics departments had to find facilities elsewhere, chemistry in a temporary unpainted wooden Chemistry Shack and physics in the Chapel basement. In the emergency caused by the fire, permission was given by the Church to conduct a drive for funds for a new building. Our church people rallied magnificently to our support and the result was Holland Hall, the striking Norman Gothic structure at the St. Olaf Avenue entrance to the campus.

Originally the plan had been to provide temporary chapel quarters on the second floor of the new building. However, with the pressure for classrooms, laboratories, and offices so great it was decided to complete the building and provide as nearly adequate science and administrative facilities as possible. Daily chapel services were to be continued in the Gymnasium until such time as a new chapel could be built. The Gymnasium served as our chapel for exactly thirty years. Then in 1953 Boe Memorial Chapel at last became a reality.

St. Olaf in Stone

MUCH DRAMA is connected with Holland Hall from its very inception and throughout its history. One of the most touching and dramatic evidences of alumni loyalty and concern came to us on that spring day when the student body and faculty were gathered for ground-breaking ceremonies. The trees had been cut down and cleared away during Easter vacation, among them the famous much-photographed hollow elm. President Boe was at the speaker's lectern, P.O. Holland had the shovel in hand to turn the first spadeful of earth, when up the Hill dashed a messenger with a cablegram for Dr. Boe. This stated that the Board of Foreign Missions was authorized to deduct a substantial amount from the senders' next month's checks, this sum to be given to the building fund, and was signed, "The St. Olafites in Madagascar." To have a message from an alumni group half a world away delivered at the precise moment we were engaged in the ground-breaking service, was an experience so startling and moving that it seemed almost unreal, to say nothing of the relative magnitude of the gift itself. It was a moment of high drama.

Many years ago now, in 1933 in fact, I gave a talk since repeated on several occasions in which Holland Hall was my theme. I do not believe there is any way in which I can more concisely convey an idea of the impact of this building upon our college community and the message it has for us than to include here some excerpts from that talk.

"On a rocky islet off the coast of Normandy is the famous

fortress-monastery Saint Michel, a cluster of buildings in which ten centuries of war, faith, art, and genius have brought together their works, the least of which is a masterpiece of the style from which it was born.

Thus a travel brochure begins its description of the building that has served as an inspiration for St. Olaf's "Poem in Stone", as Dr. George Weida Spohn called it.

"On the very brow of Manitou Heights overlooking the city of Northfield and visible for miles in all directions stands Old Main, beloved of every St. Olafite, eloquent witness of the aspirations, sacrifices, and achievements of a stalwart pioneer people. Somewhat to the right at the entrance to the campus, etched against a background of tree and sky, towers aloft Holland Hall or Mt. St. Olaf as some of us have loved to call it, pledge of the love and faith of our people of today, prophecy of our hopes and dreams for the tomorrows.

"It is far more than office, classroom, and laboratory building. From every point of view, its location, its type of architecture with its rich historic background, the materials out of which it is constructed, its decorative features all permeated with symbolism, it aims to give visible expression to the ideas and ideals of a modern Christian institution of learning. There is, first of all, real historic significance in the fact that many of the architectural features of Holland Hall should be taken from a structure built by people with the same racial strain as ours, though from a different stream and far removed from us both in time and place. There is added appropriateness that the fortress monastery in its day served fundamentally the same purpose as that for which our educational institutions exist today, namely that of study, research, the cultivation of the things of the mind and of the spirit, the home of the thinker, the dreamer, the seer.

"I watched the foundations for this building being laid. Day by day men toiled in the glare of the burning sun, digging deeper and deeper until they reached solid rock. It was not reached as soon as had been estimated. But the builders knew that unless the foundations were laid strong and secure upon bed rock itself the building could not stand firm and endure. The northeast corner proved to be the greatest problem, but at length bed rock was reached there too. Then were erected the huge steel and concrete pillars that were to support the

superstructure, then the cross-beams, and in due course all was filled in with earth again. When the visible superstructure was ready for erection, the deep foundations were hidden to the eye. The message is clear. Successful and satisfying achievement in almost every area of human endeavor is dependent upon foundations painstakingly, honestly, and often laboriously wrought.

"The building is made of stone. It is rough stone as we find it in a quarry nearby. I saw skilled stone masons take these irregular pieces of stone and hew and chisel and chip and smooth them. And so one stone was fit into place and then another, no two alike, some small, some large, some narrow, some broad; but all fitted to each other and held together by the same mortar. Bit by bit the structure assumed shape, and cut stones for windows and doors were added and towers and parapets. At last the building was completed, its varied components each filling its own place and yet so related to all the rest as to make the finished structure an entity of beauty and strength. In this too its message is self-evident.

"But let us note a bit more in detail some of the symbolism in this impressive building.

"Those massive walls and tremendous buttresses and those severe square windows speak of the physical vigor which the college would develop in its student youth; they speak too, of the permanence and power of the religious and educational ideals which it shelters; of the tested, the tried; the eternal verities which amid all the changes in this changing world still remain unchanging and true.

"You will note in this building too a continual repetition of ascending lines in the arched windows, the buttresses, the tower. They all speak of the continuous upward reaching of the spirit, the striving for values above the material, the recognition that there are many heights of knowledge not yet attained, the eternal aspirations of the dreamer, the philosopher, the poet, the missionary; all the adventures in the realm of the mind and the spirit of those who have a vision for a better world and have dedicated themselves to it.

"This is a science building. As such it is dedicated to the most painstaking study in one of the most exacting and yet adventuresome fields of knowledge. It would invite and stim-

ulate the student to the highest possible intellectual attainment. But do you see those three crosses etched deep into the cut stone edging the top of the square tower on the south exposure? And the variations of the cross surmounting the four buttresses? These details by the way are taken from the Trondheim Cathedral. They tell us that over and above the realm of the intellect is the realm of the spirit, that only in so far as the application of the knowledge and skills acquired is in harmony with the spirit of the message of the cross will it be worthy of human souls, of civilization itself. It re-affirms, too, the fact that man's intellect is limited, that beyond the greatest heights it can attain rises the cross and the realm of the spirit which alone can satisfy men's deepest quest.

"There is constant variation in form and line and decoration in the building. No two sides of it are alike, a high pointed tower on one side, a square one on another, a rounded bay effect on a third. Windows are of every variety of size and shape, some wide, high and arched like tapering cathedral windows; some long and narrow; some square, dungeon-like. The cut stone around windows and doors reveals the same variety, nothing apparently matches; there are all sorts of sizes and shapes. And yet the effect is one of beauty and harmony. This great diversity speaks of the richness and variety of human thinking and experience, of the multitude of resources to which we are heirs; religious, cultural, political, economic. They speak of the variety of opportunities that lie before us. They give expression to a basic educational principle, the recognition of individual differences along with the unity that is possible when individuals are bound together by a common spiritual bond or objective, unity without uniformity, the individual subordinated to the social group but not submerged within it; freedom within law.

"This building is one of many moods. I have seen it in days of glowing sunshine and friendly green slopes, blue skies and singing birds. It seems then to tell a story of happy, cheery, contented, normal, busy activity. It speaks of hope, ambition, and successful achievement.

"I have seen it on a brilliant crisp winter day, when the air was sharp and the trees and bushes glittered with hoar frost. Then it seemed vibrant, courageous, ready for any task.

"I have seen it when the air was heavy with fog and mist,

when the heavens were drab and grey and the winds chilling and foreboding. At such a time though grave and somber it yet stands calm and unafraid. It speaks of quiet dignity, a composure of spirit, of confidence in itself and its mission that makes it face the world as it is, undaunted and erect.

"I shall never forget it as I saw it the evening it was first opened to the public, namely, the time of its dedication, Commencement 1925.

"A reception had been planned in the new building for all commencement guests. But a terrific storm accompanied by a prolonged downpour of almost cloud-burst proportions made access to the building impossible. The crowds were waiting in Ytterboe and Mohn Halls for a lull in the storm. Suddenly, at nine o'clock every electric light in that many-windowed building flashed on. In every direction a blaze of light shone into the darkness and the storm, penetrating the gloom and lighting up the campus and adjoining buildings. The light was not of its own making but transferred to it by a Power beyond.

"And thus was proclaimed to us the high drama of St. Olaf's mission."

Dearest of "Homes on the Circling Heights"

IN 1907 THERE appeared on the St. Olaf campus a small volume of one hundred twenty-five pages, unique among college publications and an embryo forerunner, as it were, of the veritable flood of books of a similar type put out by Ladies Aids and other women's organizations in later years. It was titled "The Phi Kappa Cook Book." Its story is rather an intriguing one.

Ladies Hall, rebuilt from the original downtown school building which first housed St. Olaf's School, had served as the only dormitory for women since 1879. At most it accommodated twenty-three students. By 1906 the enrollment of women had grown from the twelve of the school's first year to one hundred thirty-six. The need for more adequate women's housing had been felt for a long time, but with other needs also pressing for consideration this matter was long deferred. The cause was presented to the annual Church meeting in 1906. Years of half-hearted official efforts towards raising the necessary funds, and heated discussions in the press and at meetings as to whether co-education should be continued at St. Olaf delayed action. The question of a college education for women was still a moot one among a number of supporters of the college. Of the one hundred thirty-six women in attendance in 1905-06 only twenty-five were in the college department. A more basic consideration, however, was the matter of the extra expense that would be involved.

During these years of controversy the young women of the college and in areas throughout the Church manifested a deep concern about the outcome. Some young women's organizations began to appropriate funds toward a dormitory for women at St. Olaf. The coeds themselves were eager to make their contribution. At that time the social and extracurricular activities of the college women were in a large measure centered in a literary society, the Phi Kappa Phi. Its membership was composed of all the college women. It was this group that conceived the idea of compiling a cookbook made up of favorite family recipes. The first paragraph of the preface states: "The idea generally prevalent is that the college girl knows or cares little for the art of cooking. This, however, is not the case among the girls of our institution and we hope that a few years of college life will never counteract the good influence or training along those lines which they have received in their Norwegian homes." With this volume forty-five young college women wanted to disarm any criticism that college training would make them less feminine. But they also hoped that the books would bring in some of the badly needed funds and engender enthusiastic support in the congregations for the erection of a dormitory. Every girl was given books to sell in her home community. When we went home for Christmas we all brought with us an extra piece of luggage, cookbooks to sell.

Some of the recipes are detailed, others very condensed presupposing considerable previous experience or culinary intuition. They run the whole gamut from breads to confectionary. In many a Middle West home you'll still find well-worn copies of this cookbook. Its real selling point was its last section of twenty-one pages of Norwegian recipes. This little volume went into four editions, the last one in 1920.

Harald Thorson had given a real impetus to the collection of funds when in 1906 he offered to contribute \$10,000 if at least twice as much was raised elsewhere, but by and large the campaign went on desultorily. However, at the annual meeting in 1910 the Church convention adopted a resolution to the effect that "a powerful effort be made that the Ladies Hall may be erected and paid for this year, June 1910 to June 1911."

Such anticipatory excitement and activity as then followed throughout the summer and the next year! The Women's League,

composed of faculty wives and women faculty members, wrote letters to Ladies Aids telling of the needs and asking for contributions for furnishing individual student rooms. The women students intensified their efforts at selling their cookbook, setting up booths at Homecoming, Commencement, and other festival occasions that brought visitors to the campus.

At last, not in 1910 but on May 15th, 1911, the contract was signed for the construction of the new Ladies Hall. Then came the thrilling ceremony when President Kildahl spoke happily and movingly, and the preceptress, Miss Georgina Dieson, now Mrs. Martin Hegland, dug the first shovelful of earth for the new excavation. School was dismissed for the period after chapel so that all faculty members and students could be present for this momentous occasion.

In the annals of St. Olaf, February 12th is historic not only because of the annual recognition of Lincoln's birthday, but because on that day in 1912 some over a hundred women students living in homes on St. Olaf Avenue, Forest Avenue, and all streets between trekked up the Hill with suitcases and boxes, while Lewis Larson hauled their trunks to their new home.

How spacious the rooms seemed and how lovely the living room with its oak-beamed ceiling and two attractive side parlors! It is said that it took a bit of shrewdness on the part of Miss Agnes Mellby, preceptress at the time, to get these two side parlors included in the plans. There was a dearth of space for music studios and practice rooms. She suggested that side parlors adjoining the central parlors could be used for studios during the school days and double as social rooms on weekends. So they were included. Their service as studios was brief, however, and they shortly came into their own.

The furniture in the living room and side parlors was the gift of Mr. William B. Ingvaldstad of Decorah, Iowa, substantial mission furniture then at the height of its popularity. But it was the women students who through the sale of their cookbooks provided the curtains, draperies, and rugs for these rooms.

As the college grew in number, additional literary societies were formed among the women and a Women's Student Government Association (now the Associated Women Students) including all the women of the college was instituted. Since at the time the cookbook was put out, the Phi Kappa membership had

included all the women of the college, it was decided to transfer the responsibility for the sale of and the income from whatever further sales there might be to the W.S.G.A. so that it could continue to be a project of all the college women and accrue to their benefit.

While under construction the building was generally spoken of as the new Ladies Hall bringing into sharp contrast the old Ladies Hall, whose residents were rather sensitive as to where the emphasis was placed. November 6th, 1912, however, the building was officially dedicated and named Mohn Hall in honor of St. Olaf's first president, Thorbjörn N. Mohn, who during the twenty-five years of his presidency championed the cause of co-education at St. Olaf.

Mohn Hall accommodated one hundred eight students. It was a considerably smaller building than originally projected. The first plan included a fourth story and wings on both east and west sides, altogether providing accommodations for a total of two hundred students. Largely for financial reasons and probably partly because some members of the building committee could not foresee any great number of young women going to college, the building was reduced in size by the simple procedure of eliminating the fourth story and cutting off the two wings. The result was a rather blunt, boxlike structure of no architectural distinction, relieved only by the commodious porch. But it had wide corridors, spacious, airy rooms, splendid washroom facilities, and attractive parlors. For all the plainness of its exterior, it has always provided for its residents an intimacy and warmth often lacking in larger but at the same time more constricted structures. Its residents have loved Mohn Hall, even though for some in periods of homesickness or academic pressure, it may have more fittingly been spelled "Moan Hall."

In more recent years there were those that wished there might have been a fireplace in the living room as is the case in the more recently constructed dormitories. But that was not the style when Ytterboe Hall and Mohn Hall were built. Central heating was still new and who wanted to bother with a fireplace when one could have all the conveniences and comforts of steam heat?

What a varied picture of St. Olaf life and St. Olaf growing pains Mohn Hall presents during its fifty-five years of service!

Except for Old Main during its first twenty-five years, and in some respects the Gymnasium, no other college building was used so hard and served in so many capacities. It literally became the heart of the campus. As a result its primary purpose as a residence for women almost seemed overshadowed by the many other services it was called upon to render.

The home economics department occupied the west end of the ground floor. It had for its day a nice-sized foods laboratory and two smaller rooms for the textile and arts courses. The major portion of the ground floor had been planned for dining facilities. However, at the time Mohn Hall was taken into use, the college dining room in Ytterboe accommodated the greater number of the students, while a few, particularly of the men living off-campus, ate in private boarding clubs. The facilities in Mohn Hall were therefore not equipped for dining purposes, but the dining room became a recreational center instead. The first big social affair held in Mohn Hall was the housewarming in the spring of 1912, when an invitation was extended to the entire Northfield community. There was a program, but very few either heard or saw it because the building was so crowded with visitors. But an exuberant festive spirit pervaded the group as the enthusiastic visitors went on their tours of inspection.

The junior-senior banquet put on by the class of 1913 was the first of such functions to be held in the dining room for the next few years. For regular daytime use it served as the women's gymnasium (the men's was the present Drama Studio in Ytterboe Hall), where in white middies and full black bloomers the women students did their calisthenics, swung Indian clubs and dumb-bells, performed their wand drills, and marched. Apparently the cement floor had not been too substantially constructed and there were complaints that the cement dust raised by marching feet counteracted any good that might be derived from physical exercise. This was in time corrected, and when the present gymnasium was completed in 1920 the women's physical education activities, hitherto very limited, were transferred to the new gymnasium which provided facilities for both men and women. The dining room continued to be used by societies, classes, and other groups for parties and social gatherings of various kinds. It even served as a little theater on occasion. Notable among the plays presented in this room were

“She Stoops to Conquer” and “The League of Youth.”

Then came an abrupt change when, with the establishment of the Student Army Training Corps in 1918, this area was equipped to serve its original purpose of providing dining service for the women. With Armistice declared on November 11, the S.A.T.C. was disbanded the latter part of December, and when school re-opened after the Christmas holidays the college returned to its normal routine. Mohn Hall dining room was discontinued and all the food services were again provided in Ytterboe Hall.

Now the women students became interested in converting this area into an attractive recreation and social room. They had begun to consult about furniture and draperies and even toyed with the idea of investigating the possibility of including a fireplace in the plans. But none of this was to be. With the after-the-war rush of young people to college more dining space was needed. In the fall of 1920 the dining facilities were again taken into use, this time with cafeteria service open to students, faculty, and visitors. The freshmen, who were the largest class, ate at Ytterboe Hall (the college Boarding Club) where meals were served family style, while the three upper classes took their meals at the Mohn Hall cafeteria. With this influx of students and faculty three times a day, Mohn Hall took on the air of a Grand Central Station. It took some time to provide the auxiliary facilities necessary to take care of these crowds. To begin with, the Mohn Hall parlors looked like a huge cloakroom at noon and at night with wraps and books belonging to off-campus students on every chair and table and hazardously lining the stairways to the ground floor. Later installations of shelves and hooks along the walls of the entire ground floor corridor corrected this annoyance. With these facilities provided, the large sliding doors opening on to the entrance could be closed as a reminder that these were the Mohn Hall parlors. It was later that the term living room or lounge came into use.

With the completion of Holland Hall, the home economics department was moved from its limited quarters in Mohn Hall to the new Science and Administration building. The former foods laboratory was converted into a little dining room accommodating up to fifty people. This became very popular for meetings of student organizations, committees, departmental

conferences, for dinners and luncheons honoring college guests, and speakers, or commemorating some special occasion. Between being awakened at five o'clock in the morning by the milkman, the clatter of pans and dishes in the kitchen, the throngs in the lower corridor from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. and from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., with the Toastmasters' club or some other group in the little dining room holding forth even later at times, Mohn Hall was involved in an almost constant hubbub of activity, a coming-and-going of students and workers from dawn till after dark. Likewise when musical organizations were going on trips, or busses were to take groups of students to a concert in Minneapolis or a play, or they were to go on a field trip, the busses loaded and unloaded at Mohn Hall while the students waited inside the entrance or on the rather spacious porch until time to embark. Perhaps at times Mohn Hall became a bit weary of all these intrusions on her privacy in spite of the glamorous prestige of being the center of so much of college life, for she might wonder how well she was fulfilling her role as a home and workshop for her women residents when so many other, sometimes distracting claims, were made upon her limited facilities.

At no time was the place more festive than during the four days of the annual Christmas commemoration. The corridor leading into the dining room was often filled with lines literally four deep of people who came to enjoy Mohn Hall's famous Norwegian suppers before the concert. It was terribly crowded, but it was jolly, too. One saw many people one knew down one line and up another, and there was helloing and visiting all the way until one finally reached the counter line in the dining room. It had been worth all the crowding and treading the zig-zag trail. The soft light of the candles on counter and tables, the glowing Christmas tree, and the bewreathed windows magically transformed this every-day bustling room into a place apart upon which rested the hush and serenity of Christmas.

Except for a few years when the old Ladies Hall was still in use and for Manitou Cottage, formerly the residence of the President of the college and his family, Mohn Hall was for twenty-five years the only women's dormitory. Mohn was, therefore, not only a college center but until World War II also

in a special sense the center for all the women students and their activities.

The office of the Dean of Women, as well as her personal suite of rooms, was on the first floor of Mohn Hall next to the entrance. It was a busy place with individual student conferences, with meetings of student committees planning programs for all the rich variety of student activities—the beginnings of the area of service later assigned to a director of student activities, in which capacity Miss Evelyn Jerdee has served long and efficiently. Here was located the housing bureau at commencement time. And in these rooms were initiated the informal cocoa parties that became a dormitory tradition.

When Mohn Hall was first occupied, a constitution for its government was drawn up by a representative group of women students and the preceptress, Miss Agnes Glasoe. The first president of Mohn Hall was Miss Inga Holen of the class of 1912.

Perhaps one of the most exciting events that Mohn Hall has witnessed from the point of view of dormitory administration was the initiation of the junior counsellor program. To begin with, Mohn Hall residents comprised members from all of the college classes as well as Academy students. The president was always a senior and the corridor proctors usually seniors or juniors. By 1917 the Academy was discontinued. The college enrollment kept increasing far beyond the possibility of housing the students on the campus. By 1920 the number of women students had increased to over four hundred. That meant that only about one-fourth of them could be accommodated in Mohn Hall. The others were housed in private homes all over the west side of town. Many of the larger houses accommodating ten to twelve, and one even fourteen students became veritable small dormitories and were most popular. Such names as Blue Goose, Wayside Inn, Brown Gables, Lazy Manshun, Lincoln Inn, and the like will bring back many cherished and delightful memories to their former residents. Under these circumstances Mohn Hall became purely a freshman dormitory with the exception of the very few who for health or physical reasons were not able to live off-campus. This made student cooperative government in Mohn Hall very difficult since the residents were strangers to each other, to the college, and to dormitory group life.

In the spring of 1937 after several meetings of the officers of

the W.S.G.A. (which had been organized in 1915) and the Dean of Women, the idea of having selected seniors live in Mohn Hall with the freshmen to serve as guides and counsellors was agreed upon as an experiment. This would mean breaking up congenial groups of senior women who had looked forward to living together in some of the larger and more popular off-campus houses. It was with almost bated breath that we awaited the decision of the first two roommates interviewed. They accepted the challenge and so did the twelve others selected. These fourteen, two for each corridor in Mohn Hall, pioneered our student counsellor service. On the basis of their recommendation at the end of the year, it was decided to have juniors serve in this capacity instead of seniors and the junior counsellor program became a regular feature of the W.S.G.A. organization. Mohn Hall was an excellent proving ground for a system that has developed into one of the finest of our college avenues for student service, personal growth, student recognition.

Mohn Hall parlors! Not only did you serve your residents but you supplemented and in a large part supplanted Ytterboe Hall parlors as a center for the social life of the college. There were receptions and teas honoring distinguished guests, the annual receptions of the Women's League for the freshman and senior women, special faculty gatherings recognizing some significant anniversary or honor received or some similar event. One of the most unusual was the wedding of Paul Bollenbacher, professor of German, and La Rue Sheean, for whom Dr. and Mrs. Carl Mellby served as parents of the bride. The marriage ceremony itself as well as the reception took place in Mohn Hall parlors. For years the Northfield branch of the A.A.U.W. held its October meeting in Mohn Hall.

It was quite a day when the W.S.G.A. installed a beautiful cabinet record player in Mohn Hall. Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons found large groups of boys and girls enjoying this new acquisition. The women's societies and many of the departmental clubs made use of the parlors for special events. It was in Mohn Hall, too, that the traditional Dean of Women's spring party for the senior class was initiated and continued until the more adequate facilities in Agnes Mellby Hall became available. For this occasion the first floor corridor was transformed into a lounge with rugs, furniture, and lamps, thus providing

seating space for more people. The office and the living quarters of the Dean of Women were also pressed into service. The refreshments were served in the candlelit cafeteria dining room at festively decorated tables.

With so many organizational events scheduled for the parlors, it was necessary to have more seating facilities than were provided by the regular furnishings. The Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation (L.D.R.), the women's religious organization which met in the parlors every Wednesday evening, bought five dozen folding chairs which were stored in a small room on first floor. Originally it had been planned to have an elevator in the building. The shaft was there but no lift had ever been installed. So a floor was built in the shaft and a storeroom created. It was the duty of the chair committee of the L.D.R. to put up the chairs for each meeting and return them to the storeroom afterwards. Once it was found that the attendance for a couple of meetings was noticeably smaller than usual. Upon inquiry it was learned that one of the new members of the chair committee for that month found the task rather arduous, but hesitating to say so, requested instead some of the freshmen not to attend the meeting. Then there would not be so many chairs to set up! A more energetic and enthusiastic volunteer was secured.

On Sunday mornings the room was used by the mission study group. The boys in this organization assumed all responsibility for the chairs. A great number of the members of this group lived off-campus. It took a real spirit of dedication as well as stamina for them to trudge up the sometimes long way to the Hill in winter for an eight o'clock Sunday morning meeting. Those few residents of Mohn Hall who complained of having their Sunday morning sleep disturbed received little sympathy.

Then there were the regular evening dormitory devotions planned and carried out by the residents themselves. Some of the most precious memories of college days are centered around evenings when sitting informally on the floor just at bedtime, the students shared in their evening meditations and Mohn Hall family worship.

There was one winter when for several successive weekends Northfield was struck by winds and snow of blizzard proportions. At that time the students attended St. John's Lutheran Church.

(It was not until later that the Student Congregation was organized.) The weather was so severe that President Boe telephoned the dormitory to say no one should attempt to go to St. John's, but that the residents should gather in the parlors at eleven o'clock and he would come up and conduct services for them. On this and several similar occasions Mohn Hall parlors served as a sanctuary.

One never-to-be-forgotten anxious night in 1916 Mohn Hall even served as an emergency hospital. Up to this time the College Hospital had been used only as an isolation building in case of contagious illnesses and had for a couple of years served as a housing unit for women students. The old frame City Hospital had closed down for about six months. Serious cases needing surgery or hospitalization were taken to Minneapolis hospitals.

One evening a Mohn Hall resident who had been under doctor's care for about a week and seemed to be consistently improving became violently ill. It was a ruptured appendix. No time to take her to Minneapolis. Her parents were called, Room 51 was cleared of everything except the flat-topped study table to which another was added to make a long operating table. Walls and floors were washed with lysol, huge lights were put in by the college engineer. Surgical equipment and sterilized sponges from the old City Hospital were taken out of storage; an exceptionally skilled surgical nurse, providentially off duty, was secured and a very serious two-hour operation was performed late at night by two local doctors. That was about fifty years ago. That seriously ill young woman is alive and well today, active in church and community.

Two world wars, as related in other chapters, also made their special demands on Mohn Hall's facilities. It was in World War II that the character and service of Mohn Hall was radically changed when for two-and-a-half years it housed cadets of the Navy Pre-Flight Training School.

One of the traditions connected with Mohn Hall that will be remembered longest and most happily by faculty members is the "Round Table" conclave during the afternoon lunch hours in the cafeteria. First there was the delicious assortment of pies, cake, cookies, ice cream, together with coffee from which to make one's selection. But best of all was the sociability at the Round

Table. There might be three or four people to begin with, but it was a most expandable table always having room for one more until there would be eight or ten sitting around it. Everything from the last or next basketball game to problems of world import was subjected to analysis. Jokes and stories added to the fun. First-comers after fifteen or twenty minutes gave way to later arrivals and so it went from three to four o'clock Mondays through Fridays. This hour was also a favorite one for committee meetings, sometimes all-faculty groups, sometimes students and faculty. It provided a delightful and stimulating break for faculty and students.

There are some events in lives of individuals and institutions that are especially remembered because of their tragi-comic nature. That is also true of Mohn Hall. There was for example that beautiful morning at commencement when the cafeteria workers came to prepare breakfast only to find the dining room completely flooded. There was a hurried S.O.S. to faithful John Berntsen and redoubtable P. O. Holland. They came immediately and went to work while commencement guests were provided a simple buffet breakfast on hurriedly improvised tables out-of-doors. By noon everything was restored to normal and a dinner amazingly complete under the circumstances was served.

On another accasion nature in a frolicsome mood gave us a bit of excitement. On the south side of Mohn Hall overlooking Norway Valley were balconies. In the spring some of the students were permitted to move their beds out on the second and third floor balconies. One spring a twister took a twirl around the campus and when it had passed down the Hill the girls found their beds on the porches bereft of bedding, their mattresses scattered on the ground, their sheets and other bedding waving at them from the treetops.

In spite of its multiform services to the entire college community, Mohn Hall in a certain sense lived its own life apart from the throng. It was home and workshop for its residents. Their experiences ranged the whole gamut of college dormitory life from the first eager, sometimes a bit fearful arrival, often amid leaden skies and pelting rain, to the reluctant departure in June amid the glory and fragrance of lilacs, spirea, and peonies in full bloom. There were adjustments to be made to group living, to strange roommates, to the stern demands of

study hours. For some there was homesickness to contend with. It was exciting to plan the decor of one's room, in the early days, to decorate the walls with college banners, to decide with one's roommate on the color of the bedspread. Such decisions usually involved a hike to town together. There were no taxis in those days. Before long everyone was settled, new schedules had become familiar, and the routine of work and play established.

Up to the time of the first World War, Mohn Hall provided a fairly normal dormitory situation for its residents. There were strict regulations as to study hours in the building. They were from 8.00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Unless you were in class, laboratory, library, or at music practice you were in your room during these times. You did not go downtown or visit during study hours. The young women's religious organization had also requested that there be a quiet hour on Sundays from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. This was carefully observed during the first half dozen years. There were no visits from parents or friends by car then. As previously indicated many of the seniors lived in Mohn Hall during its earlier years. One of their special privileges was that unlike the rest of the residents they might have a "spread" in their rooms during afternoon study hours. Furthermore they were free to come and go as they pleased during these hours. These were both highly prized privileges. However, they could not disturb others and were expected to exercise every care to maintain the necessary quiet in their corridor. Any unnecessary noise or activity that infringed upon the study quiet was penalized with a squelch from the proctor.

It was from 1920 until the St. Olaf Center was built in 1960 that Mohn Hall facilities were taxed to the fullest. Then, after forty sometimes tumultuous years, Mohn Hall again became what she was originally planned to be, a dormitory for women. In spite of the varying demands upon her facilities during her fifty-five years of service, the some over six thousand young women who found in her their college home have rich memories of their dormitory life with its corridor parties, birthday celebrations, Sunday afternoon social gatherings, serenades, open houses, Christmas festivities, and the variety of similar events that imaginative, artistic, and efficient young women planned and executed. Here too their religious and spiritual life was nourished

and given opportunity for expression. Mohn Hall was also their workshop where sometimes enthusiastically, sometimes painfully, sometimes indifferently, but most often conscientiously, they labored to meet the demands of classroom and laboratory, And they loved Mohn Hall! She was unpretentious but warmhearted. Within her walls they were all one family. Her aim was to contribute as best she could to the physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual development of those entrusted to her and thus to fulfill her share in the great purpose of a Christian liberal arts college, namely, that its students may "grow in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man."

There is much sadness at the thought that she is no more, but deep gratitude for all that she has been to so many.

A Dream Come True

AT LONG LAST! A new dormitory for women! Only a few years after the erection of Mohn Hall in 1912, a photograph of all the women students crowded on the front porch and leaning out windows, labeled "Mohn Hall Overflowing," dramatized to the Board of Trustees the obvious need of additional campus housing for the women students.

Time and again during the next eighteen years dormitory needs were urged; plans were worked on only to be laid aside for one reason or another—among them the Chapel fire giving priority to a new classroom building, a desperately needed music hall, a Church-wide campaign for special synodical funds, the Luther-St. Olaf Endowment drive, a depression. But at length, in August 1937, twenty-five years after the completion of Mohn Hall, ground was broken for Agnes Mellby Hall, named in honor of St. Olaf's first woman college graduate.

There had been many difficult decisions to make before the contracts for the building were finally let. Until the new power plant was built following the fire which destroyed the old plant, all the buildings had been constructed of brick. But the architects, Coolidge and Hodgson of Chicago, suggested stone native to this area for the plant and for the new buildings being planned. There was a question whether skilled stone masons were available and what would be the cost of such construction.

The new power plant became the guinea pig to determine the desirability and practicality of using stone for projected buildings. The workmen who placed a flag on top of the smoke

stack to indicate the completion of the building declared that this was the most beautiful power plant they knew of. The erection of the combined Science Hall and Administration building and the Music Hall, later named Holland Hall, and Christiansen Hall, respectively, followed shortly, both of limestone.

When the time came to build Agnes Mellby Hall, there were those who felt that future residence halls should be of brick since this type of construction was less expensive and that the use of stone should be limited to buildings serving a strictly academic purpose. I remember Mr. Holland wrestling with this problem and saying that whatever was done with Agnes Mellby Hall would determine the pattern for the future. Sentiment among faculty, students, alumni, and friends was strongly in favor of stone. And this has been the material used in all subsequent buildings.

Then came the day for opening contractors' bids. They were higher than anticipated. Some cutting had to be done, but where? One feature of the building about which we had been especially thrilled was the paneled walls in the large foyer and the living room. We felt that although in a sense it was a luxury feature, it was most appropriate for the public rooms in a stone structure and would make foyer and lounge rooms of distinction, rather than just nice rooms with plastered walls. Because we felt that this was an extra feature beyond the demands of pure necessity I had solicited from the alumnae one dollar contributions toward the paneling and had received approximately \$2,000.

One of the committee's first suggestions for cutting was to eliminate the paneling from these rooms. President Boe very reluctantly came to my office to tell me of it and other changes suggested. The change from oak to painted pine for built-in chests of drawers and closet shelves in the students' rooms I agreed with unhesitatingly. But when it came to eliminating the paneling in the foyer and lounge I would not consent. I said that I would refund to the donors the money so far received if it were not used for the purpose requested and given. The total amount that would have been saved by this elimination was \$6,000.

When President Boe reported to the committee, he urged that every effort be made to secure the necessary wood paneling at a lower cost. This proved successful. When the building was

completed, some of the most frequent comments made by students and visitors were on the beauty of the red oak paneling and the distinction it gave to the rooms.

The day in May 1938 when the women members of the class of 1939 came en masse to the new hall to select their rooms for the coming year was a most exciting one. Except for the few who had been counselors in Mohn, none of them had lived on the campus since their freshman year and half of them had never lived in a college dormitory. Their oh's and ah's resounded through the building as they made their tour of exploration. Third and fourth floors were to be their domain. The rest of the building was to be occupied by underclass women and junior counselors.

The evening before Memorial Day, Agnes Mellby opened its doors for a housewarming celebration. A delightful program had been planned by a committee of the Women's Student Government Association. It included music by a women's trio, a male quartette, a flute solo, and a violin solo. Ruth Borge, the newly elected president of the W.S.G.A. gave a welcome talk, "Our Pleasure." Mr. Arthur Solum of the faculty spoke on "The Builders," I on "Hopes, Trials, and Success." Lorraine Oppegard, the newly elected first president of Agnes Mellby, closed with a gracious "Come Again."

On the first floor of Agnes Mellby Hall there is a little chapel. The inclusion of such a room of quiet had been suggested when the plans for the building were being drawn, but the idea was dismissed in view of the desperate need for rooms for students. However, it turned out that to conform with the architectural features of the ground floor entrance on the west, one room in the central corridor was larger than and differently shaped from the other student rooms. Almost invariably on seeing it people inspecting the building under construction would exclaim, "Why this looks just like a little chapel." And so it became.

In the spring when the building was completed, one of the seniors, Edna Hatlestad, asked me if there were any special plans for dedicating this little chapel. I replied, "No, none other than the dedication of the entire building at commencement."

Looking up smilingly and half shyly she said, "Do you suppose Howie and I could dedicate it in a special way on June 8th?"

This was arranged. At most the little chapel could seat forty

people. But Edna as she met one friend after the other, teacher or schoolmate, on the campus blithely invited them to the wedding and at last discovered that invited guests far outnumbered the capacity of the chapel. The wedding service was therefore performed in front of the flower-bedecked fireplace in the commodious living room. None of the furniture for the dormitory had arrived. But a piano had been brought in on which a classmate, Sylvia Fritz (Mrs. Albert Frerichs) played the nuptial music. The requisites for serving the wedding cake and coffee had also been provided. During the years there have been many small weddings in the little chapel, but the Edna and Howard Hong marriage service was the first to be conducted in Agnes Mellby Hall. The wedding on January 1, 1940, of Anna Tonette Hegland and Joseph Jauch was the first one to be performed in the little chapel.

In a modern dormitory one is conscious of the efforts made to provide for the physical, intellectual, and social needs of its residents. The inclusion of the little chapel in Agnes Mellby Hall is a visible evidence of the necessity for recognizing their spiritual needs, a place where one can for a few moments be apart from the crowd. It serves also for corporate devotions as the different corridors make arrangements to meet in their turn in this room.

Immediately upon entering the little chapel one senses an atmosphere of worship. Voices instinctively become hushed. The colorful stained-glass windows depicting scenes from the 23rd Psalm is the gift of the Women's League at St. Olaf College and the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Hilleboe, the latter in memory of their mother, who had been a student at St. Olaf in its early days. The altar and benches were made by Mr. John Berntsen of walnut trees planted by Dr. Nils Flaten. The carvings on altar and benches were done by Dr. Flaten's son, Mr. Arnold Flaten, head of the art department. They bear careful study. On one side of the backrest of the benches are sacred symbols, on the reverse side of each a scripture passage of a meditative nature illuminated in gold. The cross on the altar, the gift of Dr. Oscar Mellby, was designed by Mr. John L. Ellingboe. He did the painting depicting the St. Olaf woman guided by the spirit of Christ, that hangs in this room, a gift of the men of Ytterboe Hall.

With the building completed, furnishings were necessary. President L. W. Boe, Mr. P. O. Holland and I served as a committee to select and purchase the furnishings for both the students' rooms and the social rooms. The year previous I had visited a dormitory in another college when they were having the chairs in the students' rooms recovered for the third time in ten years. I mentioned this on our way to Chicago where we had made arrangements to look at furniture at Marshall Field's. I recall Mr. Holland's quick reply, "We can't afford to re-cover. We'll have to get good stuff to begin with." It was interesting to observe how minutely he examined the construction of each chair and other pieces of furniture we looked at, and at the quality of fabrics for upholstering and rugs. In this purchasing venture we had the splendid assistance of a Mr. Red of the interior decorating department, who had previously been sent floor plans of the building and had suggestions ready for us. It became evident to him before long that we wanted good quality which could promise long and hard usage. We felt well satisfied at the end of a couple of arduous days with our selections of furniture and rugs.

But securing draperies for the foyer and living room almost became our Waterloo. Nothing shown us was suitable for mullioned stone windows and red oak paneled walls. Fabrics that "might do" were prohibitive in price. After an exhausting day both Dr. Boe and Mr. Holland, thoroughly discouraged, said they guessed that for the time being we would have to get along without draperies in these rooms.

Then all at once Mr. Red exclaimed, "I have an idea. There is a velvet piece left after we decorated the Edgewater Beach Hotel two years ago. I think there are about eighty yards. If you'll take the whole piece, we'll give it to you for \$2 a yard." When he brought out the piece from storage, we said, "This is it." There proved to be a couple of yards more than were needed for the draperies and these were made into table protectors to be placed under lamps, vases, etc. And that's the story behind the red velvet hangings in Agnes Mellby Hall.

During the summer busy campus crews got everything in readiness for the opening of college in September. The one hundred eighty Agnes Mellby residents were delighted with everything in their new home. But there developed some prob-

lems. Every weekend there were throngs of visitors who wanted to see the building, even the rooms with the beamed ceilings on fourth floor. A plan of rotation of student hostesses and student rooms to be shown had to be worked out so that a measure of Sunday privacy could be assured, especially for the first floor residents.

Homecoming that fall, however, proved almost too much for us. Of course all the visitors wanted to see the new building with its special features, and it was the natural place for them to gather before and after the various homecoming events. The wide stretch of new road between Agnes Mellby Hall and the Gymnasium had not yet been surfaced. It poured heavily intermittently all Saturday and Sunday. Some people wore rubbers, most of them didn't. When we surveyed the living room after the last guest had left, the lovely new rugs looked hopelessly ruined. Large portions were solid with mud down to the very warp. But Mrs. G. T. Rygh, the housemother, and Mrs. Erik Wing, the housekeeper, went to work alternately vacuuming and letting dry for several days, and finally scrubbing with ivory soap; forty work-hours later the rugs had been restored to their original beauty. They are the same rugs that are on the floor today as this is written twenty-nine years later. Good quality proved itself.

Because of its location and facilities Agnes Mellby Hall not only provides housing for women students, but has throughout its years served as a gracious social center for the entire college. It has provided a place for visitors to gather on festive days, Homecoming, Christmas festivals, Commencement, etc. The living room has proved ideal for the many receptions and teas given by different student and faculty groups and for honoring college guests, artists, speakers, et al. The recreation room has been available for gatherings of organizations of both faculty and students and even for dinners and small banquets before the present Center was built. During the summers the building serves as headquarters for many of the institutes, conferences, conventions, and retreats that are held on the campus and the place hums with activity.

Quarters were originally provided in Agnes Mellby Hall for the Dean of Women as well as for a housemother. For the first thirteen years Mrs. G. T. Rygh, whose sister, Marie Aaker, was

a member of St. Olaf's first student body, served as housemother. She was assisted during the last few years, first by Mrs. Olivia Peterson, then by Mrs. Alice Weinhardt. In the fall of 1951 when Gertrude Hilleboe Hall was completed, Mrs. Rygh and I moved over to the new dormitory for a year. Mrs. Alice Weinhardt was then made resident head of Agnes Mellby Hall, a position which she filled with exceptional skill and dedication until her retirement in the summer of 1967 after nineteen years of devoted and almost round-the-clock service to St. Olaf and its students. The quarters first occupied by the Dean of Women are now those of the resident head and her previous quarters in turn now serve as a much-needed guest room.

The new St. Olaf Center has taken some of the heavy college community services off Agnes Mellby Hall, but she still remains a center for gracious hospitality on the campus.

Incidentally it is interesting to observe with what accelerated pace succeeding dormitories for women were built to overcome the gap between the number of women students and campus housing facilities for them. As indicated, twenty-six years elapsed between the erection of Mohn Hall and Agnes Mellby Hall, while the number of women students in that same period quadrupled. Then, just thirteen years later came Gertrude Hilleboe Hall followed in six years by Agnes Kittelsby Hall. In another three years Hoyme Memorial Hall was built and four years after that Agnes Larson Hall. Finally the long-time dream of campus housing for all women students was realized.

The erection of men's dormitories followed much the same pattern. Ytterboe Hall had been erected in 1900. With the great influx of men students following the close of World War II, the need for additional campus housing became desperate. In 1948, almost fifty years after the erection of Ytterboe Hall, Thorson Hall was completed. Then followed in succession Kildahl Hall, Emil Ellingson Hall, and the Men's Tower Dormitory (re-named Mohn Hall), all contributing towards the realization of the goal of making St. Olaf truly a residential college for both men and women.

Second World War Years

66 **A**ND SO IT IS war again!" Thus begin the notations on December 7th, 1941, in a little diary that was kept that year and a few following.

It had been a year fraught with increasing anxiety and concern. For two years we had watched the seemingly inexorable onmarch of Hitler's armies over Europe. We had read in our papers and heard over the radio about the rape of Austria, the crushing of Czechoslovakia and Poland, the invasion of Norway and Denmark, the collapse of Yugoslavia, Belgium, Greece, France, the Low Countries, the deceitful attack on Russia, and now more recently, the fevered diplomatic discussions between Japan and the United States. For almost two years, too, we had followed the courageous and valiant English whose fidelity to their pledge to Poland had brought them into conflict with this Nazi juggernaut. While officially as a people we were neutral, we were not so in our hearts. There was Lend-Lease. Our Navy was on the watch for German submarines, and there were numerous other government aids to the anti-Axis powers. On the quiet, preparations were being made for our own defense in the event of our being drawn into the holocaust.

St. Olaf like many colleges and communities had a "Bundles for Britain" project; our Lenten offerings were designated for Soldiers and Sailors Welfare; Red Cross drives were held. But we were not directly involved and the war was far off. There did not seem to be anything significant we could do so we tried to go about our regular business as best we could. It had been

exciting to witness the ground-breaking for the new library in January, twenty years after the project had originally been launched, and the cornerstone laying at commencement. Special recognition had been given Dr. F. Melius Christiansen that commencement in honor of his 70th birthday. Many alumni were back, but all through the festivities was felt the undertone of the critical world situation both in the addresses given and in personal conversation.

Then came December 7th and Pearl Harbor! The effect on the campus and elsewhere was electric and sobering. We understood well that there would be a long, hard struggle ahead and that both as individuals and as an institution we would become deeply involved. It was a serious group of students that came to supper that night. Radios had been brought into the dining room so they could hear the reports as they ate. A scene deeply etched in memory from that evening is of the entire roomful of students rising and standing at attention as the "Star Spangled Banner" was played. The next day at chapel President Boe, a veritable tower of strength, united us as a college in an ever-stronger bond as he discussed the recent overwhelming events, counseled calm courage, spoke of the meaning of the flag and the cause for which we were fighting, and led the assembly as we prayed together the 23rd Psalm. Always he left us with a challenge, a lift: "Through this, too, we shall walk with heads up."

What was there now that we could do? A Faculty Council on National Defense was immediately formed to promote and supervise various areas of war service. Students were urged to stay in college as long as it was possible for them to do so. After the holidays specific implementation of the war service program began. There was nothing spectacular about it, but once again the college was adjusting itself to new and pressing demands. Some students left at the end of the first semester to help with the farm or business at home because older brothers had gone into the service. A course for radio technicians was offered. Because of the emphasis on physical health and stamina on the part of the War Department, four years of physical training were prescribed for all students. A drive for funds for the Red Cross went way "over the top"; first aid, home nursing, and nutrition courses were offered for juniors and seniors. Faculty members designated a portion of each monthly check for defense

bonds. The Choir on its winter tour sang at the dedication of the Lutheran Center at Corpus Christi and at the Naval Air Station, as well as at the Great Lakes Naval Station. Papers and radio kept us informed of war news, most of it very grim. Amid it all every effort was made to carry on the basic activities of the college as normally as possible.

March 28th, 1942, was a day of great enthusiasm since it marked the official opening of the Rølvaag Memorial Library. After an impressive chapel service with talks and choir and band music, the students, faculty, and alumni assembled in front of the Library. There were a few words by the contractor, the architect, and Arthur Lee, the college business manager. Then Mr. Lee in a moment of intense silence slowly turned the key in the door and opened it. A few closing words by President Boe and a fervent "Now Thank We All Our God" by the assembled St. Olaf family was followed by the joyous entry into the building itself to exclaim over its beauty, its adequacy as a long-needed academic workshop and to rejoice in its completion. For war years were making the construction of such buildings increasingly difficult, in fact from now on, impossible. We had let our contract just in time. That this had been done seemed nothing less than providential.

During the afternoon there were coffee, sightseeing, visiting, and happy expressions of satisfaction over the monumental gift of the alumni to the college. Open house in the evening saw some twenty-five hundred people go through the brightly illuminated, flower-bedecked building. It was a gala day and marked the last public official act of Dr. Boe as president of St. Olaf College. His health had been failing. He had dreamed and prayed that he could see this building for which he had worked so long and so hard completed. Not long after came another exciting day when through the labors of a hard-working library staff and the assistance of many student volunteers the books were moved from Steensland Library and the many subsidiary book depositories and put into place in the new building. It was a day of bustling activity and animated conversations as trucks and carts moved back and forth from one building to another.

New words were coming into our vocabularies that spring! War Savings Stamps, Victory supper, rationing. The latter was both a new word to us and a new experience. Attendance at our

music festival was much reduced because of gas rationing. The Sioux City delegation of singers came in a cattle truck! From that time on until the war was over visitors at the Christmas and the spring music festivals were relatively few. Students no longer drove home for vacation in parents' cars but went by bus or train.

May 12th President Boe sent a communication to the faculty announcing that the doctors had ordered him to have a six months' rest and that he was appointing Dean J. Jorgen Thompson as vice-president and acting president. May 19th he spoke by radio from his home at the last chapel service of the year.

By fall of 1942 in a variety of ways we were becoming increasingly aware that the war was coming closer. Certain popular articles at the grocery were no longer available. Bananas were always essential for our fruit salad, but now we served "Yes-we-have-no-banana salad," soaking marshmallows in cream to give the dish a sort of banana flavor. No hardship, but it was one of the many little modifications that by degrees entered our daily lives. Then came governmental requests to save cans and all waste fats. WCAL put on special programs in behalf of the government's war effort. But far more significant was the increasing number of young men who left school to enlist. To give recognition to them, we decided to make a service flag to be ready for the opening convocation on the evening of the 16th of September. For two days groups of women students worked in shifts sewing some 400 stars on the service flag in tribute to St. Olaf alumni and undergraduates in the service. Already there were two gold stars to be included. These Mrs. Charles Weisheit embroidered. The flag was finished in time to be placed on the rostrum for the formal opening exercises, a gripping reminder to us all of our men who were already in the service.

To coordinate the war service contribution of student organizations a Student War Emergency Council (S.W.E.C.) was set up in the fall of 1942. It sponsored particularly the all-college war efforts such as Red Cross drives, victory fairs, war bonds, stamp sales, Chapel Fund promotion, scrap metal drives, clothing drives, book drives for overseas men, and the making of clever cartoon scrap books for veterans' hospitals.

The campus was visited by representatives of the Army, the Navy, and the Marines to recruit men. We were given instruc-

tions about blackout procedures for the dormitories and other buildings. All men were required to take swimming so that they could be equipped with this "protection training" before entering service. But it was in the first part of December that we became acutely aware of the transformation taking place on the campus. As in World War I, so now to a far greater degree the government was asking for the use of college facilities for the training of a variety of military units. A faculty-administration committee met to discuss what could be done to meet the Navy's request that we take a unit totaling 600 men. It was decided that not only Ytterboe Hall but also Mohn Hall with the exception of the ground floor should be turned over to the Navy and that the young women housed there should be assigned one to each room in Agnes Mellby Hall. Thus was initiated our three-in-a-room emergency arrangement that lasted for many years.

Just before Christmas vacation the traditional freshman Christmas banquet was held in Ytterboe Hall. It had been customary to have open house in Ytterboe after the banquet, but none was planned for this year. Many of the dinner guests came to the Agnes Mellby living room to complete the evening's festivities. During the informal program came the shrill shriek of the siren sounding a nine-state-wide blackout practice!

Christmas vacation was a busy one for the staff and particularly for the building and grounds men under Mr. John Berntsen's direction. The first contingent of the Navy unit was to arrive the second week in January. One bed from each room in Agnes Mellby had to be moved to the attic to make room for a double-decker in its place. Double-deckers had to be secured. The beds in Mohn Hall had to be moved to Ytterboe Hall attic to make room for Navy double-deckers. Quarters had to be provided in Agnes Mellby for Miss Evelyn Jerdee and Miss Elaine Tracy, head residents of Mohn Hall, as well as for Mrs. Elise Ytterboe, who had occupied a room in Mohn Hall all the years she had so happily and beautifully served as cashier in the cafeteria. She had recently retired from these duties and had been succeeded by Mrs. Ruby Hauge, who also had to have a room in Agnes Mellby Hall. Mrs. Ytterboe's reply when told of the evacuation of Mohn Hall remains a classic: "Why, Hitler can't do this to me."

Inventory of everything had to be taken before rugs, furniture,

curtains, and paintings could be stored. A classroom in the Administration Building (now Holland Hall) was set aside for office space for the Dean of Women, the Director of Student Activities, and the Assistant Dean of Women. Screens were secured to partition off the three offices from each other and from the waiting room and secretary's desk until such time later as more permanent partitions could be built. One recalls with amusement the efforts to carry on conferences with students on matters of a confidential nature. With the parties concerned practically huddled in a corner, the conversation was carried on in "whispered accents," "low" if not always "sweet."

In Mohn Hall more washroom facilities were needed for the increased number of residents contemplated. So the single rooms adjoining the bathrooms were converted into additional washrooms for which the necessary equipment had first to be secured. The trunk room in the basement was made into an office for the food service staff. At the college hospital the large porch was enclosed and made into a five-bed ward and the living room partitioned to make two single rooms, all to provide additional hospital space.

In the midst of all this hustle and bustle came the news of the passing of President Boe during the night of his 67th birthday. An almost audible hush seemed to descend on the campus. The flag flew at half mast. People spoke with choked voices. It was hard to work but that was what he would have had us do. To every one connected with the college, this meant the passing of a personal friend, strong, encouraging, appreciative, inspiring. Even in his serious illness he had expressed the conviction that St. Olaf should do all it could to make its facilities available to the government. He was a man of great faith and a great patriot.

His body lay in state in the Library, which he had not been able to enter since that day he stood in the receiving line when the building was opened. People from every walk of life came to pay him tribute. He had fought the good fight and his work was done.

Classes after the Christmas holidays according to the catalog, were scheduled to resume January 4th. But there were no classes that day. Instead it became "Evacuation Day." It was bitterly cold, windy, and blizzardy. All day long one could see the girls trekking between Mohn Hall and Agnes Mellby carrying their

possessions, bucking the wind and the snow, struggling with a floor lamp, or an armful of bedding or dresses on hangers. But the boys were most helpful and did all they could to lighten the loads and transport the heavier things. By evening Mohn Hall was completely emptied and its displaced residents settled in their new quarters, where Agnes Mellby students had made the necessary adjustments to make room for them and to give them a warm welcome.

There were still other changes in store for Agnes Mellby Hall. Not only did it have to provide a refuge for the majority of the evacuees (a few were accommodated off-campus), but it also had to provide gymnasium facilities for the women since the Navy took over the women's physical education department facilities in the gymnasium. So Room 3 on the ground floor became the phy ed office; the recreation room the gym. The towel cabinets were placed in the laundry room, lockers in the corridor.

By the end of the month the St. Olaf men students were moved into private homes off-campus and the Navy housed, usually four to a room in Mohn Hall and Ytterboe Hall, named respectively for the duration "S. S. Lexington" and "S. S. Enterprise." When the quota was full, there were three contingents of 200 each quartered on the Hill for a three-months' period in a Navy Flight Preparatory Training program. Classes and evening study periods were held in Old Main, drill in the Gymnasium. Teachers were recruited from the St. Olaf faculty and other educational institutions in addition to those provided by the Navy. Classes for the St. Olaf students were held in Holland Hall and the Library. Again we were two separate schools located on the same campus. But this was different from the Student Army Training Corps set-up of World War I. The S.A.T.C. was disbanded in about four months after its establishment. The Navy program lasted for over two-and-a-half years. There was a constant change of cadets. When one battalion of 200 completed its three months' training course, it left for the next phase of its training and was supplanted by a new rookie battalion.

While Lt. E. G. Thorson, the commanding officer, said at the outset that there was to be no more fraternization between his men and our students than if they were a thousand miles apart,

it became evident before long that such a policy was untenable. An agreement was reached by which the cadets might be guests of the students at various social events planned for Sunday afternoons in the living room or the recreation room of Agnes Mellby. There were coffee hours, sings, and variety programs. The first coffee hour brought 300 cadets! Sometimes we ran out of refreshments. Then there were other occasions such as open houses, Christmas concerts, and college programs to which the cadets were invited. The following year the Women's Student Government Association, which arranged for the hospitality extended in Agnes Mellby, planned for a number of Sunday affairs for which invitations were extended to forty cadets, ten St. Olaf men, and fifty women students at a time. With such an arrangement it was not only much easier to plan refreshments that would go around but also the size of a crowd that could comfortably and pleasantly be accommodated. The invitation to the cadets was extended through their company leaders. On occasion it happened that either an entire company or individuals would be restricted for a violation of a disciplinary nature or ground school work and could not come. Usually substitutes could be secured! As a part of the story of the Navy at St. Olaf, it might be of interest to record that penicillin was apparently used for the first time in Northfield in the treatment of a Navy cadet. He had been in the hospital for over a month with an infection that nothing seemed to budge. Finally a request was sent to New York for penicillin, which at that time was available only to the armed forces. At the end of twelve hours after treatment the cadet was much improved, and after another fourteen hours he was dismissed from the hospital. Thus we were introduced to the miracle of penicillin.

Toward spring of 1943 in a number of little ways we were further being made aware that these were not normal days. Ration cards were issued for every one to insure a fair distribution of certain basic articles: sugar, coffee, meat, shoes, gasoline. The Lion's Den had to be closed in the evenings for some time because of rationing and lack of help. In the candy cases in the bookstore all the familiar bars disappeared. In their places were bags of popcorn, potato chips, soybean confections, seedless raisins, licorice, all-day suckers. Many of the men students had dropped out at the end of the first semester. The faculty decided

to give proportional credit to such as were enrolled the second semester, if and when they were called into service. March 1 an additional fifty-four men received their notices to go to Fort Snelling for their physicals.

That first weekend in March, 1943, we were hosts of the Lutheran Students Union, an organization of the student bodies of the schools of the then Evangelical Lutheran Church. One hundred visitors had been expected. Registration came to two hundred. The student housing committee performed a Herculean task in securing lodging for this number in off-campus homes, thanks to the generosity of the home owners. Many students gave up their banquet tickets so that the visitors could be accommodated. There was a deep sense of gratitude that our men were able to attend this inspiring convention before they left for the service. At the closing session held at St. John's church, one of them, Harold Heiberg, an outstanding pianist and organist, played the organ and made it speak so personally and movingly that it became the high point of the convention.

As the men singly and in groups throughout the semester left the campus for service, increasingly the responsibility for the various organizations and student activities fell upon the women students. Since it was obvious that the struggle in which we were engaged would be long-drawn-out, those directing the program at St. Olaf attempted to continue to provide as strong an academic program as possible and to keep the constructive cultural, social, and religious activities functioning. So we had the music festival again that spring, but only a couple of choirs from Minneapolis came to join with the Northfield High School chorus and our own musical forces. The band and orchestra were largely manned by women now. For the Baccalaureate service a few weeks later the members of the first and second choirs who were still in school combined to furnish the music.

Our women students were not only faced with increased responsibilities on the campus but they were being sought for enlistment in a variety of services designed to qualify them for certain military jobs from which men could be released for more active military service. A program of specialized training in the field of engineering by Curtis-Wright Corporation interested some of our young women, and Miss Marjorie Quie became the first from St. Olaf to enlist in this type of service. Then we

were visited by representatives from the WACS and WAVES. This was something new in our country and at first raised many questions and much doubt. But as time went on and the programs were better developed and understood, many of our women students enlisted, a few while in college but most of them after completing their college course.

Every summer a number of students are employed by the college to work on the grounds and buildings, repairing sidewalks, raking, painting rooms. There are many of our alumni who are proud to have worked on John Berntsen's summer crew. But this year no student help was available. What to do? The young women came to the rescue and so was formed the twenty-five member St. Olaf Women's Labor Battalion, some working on the grounds, some painting, some in the mess hall kitchen, some assisting in the hospital, wherever needed most.

This summer too marked our first attempt at a real summer school. Courses in typing and shorthand had been given the previous summer. But this summer's course was planned particularly so that men now in the reserves who might be called out in the fall could accelerate their academic program. As it turned out these men received orders to report by July 1. Because those for whom the course was primarily planned could not enroll, the attendance was reduced to the sixty-eight others who had indicated their interest.

Out-door drill had begun in the spring and the campus resounded during the summer months with "1, 2, 3, Hup" and "About face." The broad surfaced area between the Gymnasium and Agnes Mellby Hall and the area west of Agnes Mellby was a favorite drill ground.

In our effort to extend a bit of hospitality during the summer to these men quartered on the Hill, many from "St. Olaf communities" in the Middle West, though every section of the United States was represented, a few of the staff members gave some simple Sunday suppers to a group of up to thirty at a time. These were served at five o'clock on the green behind Agnes Mellby when weather permitted, inside if it rained. There was croquet and visiting, finding out who's who and from where, followed by a social hour in the living room and group singing until going-home time. This varied depending on "restrictions," sometimes until seven o'clock, on occasions until 9:30 p.m. Lights

were out on "S. S. Enterprise" and "S. S. Lexington" at ten o'clock. Assisting with the entertainment each time were some of our summer school students who led in group singing. That these little suppers were enjoyed was evidenced by one evening's experience when there were two musters, one immediately after we had eaten and one an hour-and-a-half later. After reporting for each muster the men all came back to Agnes Mellby to stay until time to get back to base.

For a number of years quite a group both from the college and downtown had celebrated June 24th, Midsummer Night, with a picnic supper, folk games, group singing, and a large bonfire on the St. Olaf campus. This summer it was made a special occasion to which cadets and the summer school students were invited. At one point in the program the cadets were presented with New Testaments.

Radio station WCAL had for several years sponsored a special observance of July 4th on the campus. This year the Fourth fell on Sunday. An outdoor service on the St. Olaf campus for St. John's congregation was arranged for the morning, emphasizing the combined religious and patriotic significance of the day. An impressive feature of the afternoon program was a military parade and review by the cadets of both St. Olaf and Carleton. From now on regimental reviews were held almost monthly and became a regular part of the campus scene.

Prof. J. Arndt Bergh of the college music department, familiarly known as Jack, directed both Navy band and Navy chorus. The band played at all the reviews and the chorus performed on a number of occasions.

There were many weddings among St. Olaf graduates this summer. A number of them were married at St. John's and had the wedding reception in Agnes Mellby Hall. At the first of these (June Anderson and Clifford Swanson), as the wedding party and guests were chatting at the reception, all the lights went out and left the living room in darkness. We had failed to inform the celebrants that we had made an agreement with the government not to run our power plant after 10:30 p.m. But there were partly burned candles of all sizes available and the evening festivities closed amid candle light glow much more romantic than our soft-shaded lamps. For the next wedding re-

ception two evenings later we were prepared with new, full-length tapers.

September came around again. An aura of sadness hung over the campus as we mourned the loss of one of our most colorful, dynamic, and respected faculty members, Dr. George Weida Spohn, whom death had claimed a few weeks before.

With September came a new freshman class. What a toll of returning and prospective students the war had taken! The previous fall the number of freshman women at the beginning of the college year had exceeded the number of men by only three. Now, one year later they outnumbered them six to one. There were 247 freshman women and 40 men. Many of our men that year were pre-seminarians whose future service as pastors and chaplains was regarded as so important for the national welfare as to exempt them from military service at the time in order that they might complete their college and theological training. We had the traditional Saturday all-college First Nighter. The freshmen marched into the gymnasium led by a standard bearer carrying a huge service flag with the figure 1020 etched against a V background while the band played and the old students sang "Fram, Fram" until all were seated. The evening was made more festive by the fact that twenty-five of our St. Olaf men now stationed in a military unit at Gustavus Adolphus had been given liberty and came to join us at our First Nighter. They in their uniforms, together with cadets from our own unit, gave a special patriotic tone to the evening.

And so the school years 1943-44 was launched. Classes were in full swing and plans for as many as possible of the normal events and activities under way. There wasn't much activity in athletics, though there was one home game played with River Falls in which the St. Olaf squad was composed of twenty-eight members, only one of whom had played football either in high school or college. St. Olaf was defeated 12 to 2, but we were proud of the sportsmanship our football novices had shown.

This fall marked one innovation in student life and that was the initiation of SWAF Day (St. Olaf Welcomes All Freshmen). An enthusiastic committee from the sophomore class worked hard and imaginatively on this project which emphasized a constructive approach to sophomore-freshman relationships and also involved the college as a whole.

A parade of students on a Saturday afternoon led by the pep band, a program of skits in the Gymnasium, "The St. Olaf Family Album" by the faculty and "A Day at St. Olaf" by the students, an indoor picnic supper, a variety program—then the high moment, the formal initiation of the freshmen into membership in the student body!

The sophomore women in white sweaters and black skirts, each carrying a lighted candle formed an aisle down the center of the gymnasium through which the freshmen marched. As they stood in mass formation, the president of the student body welcomed them into the St. Olaf fellowship concluding with a loyalty pledge which the freshmen repeated after him. The evening closed in splendor with a huge bonfire and a spectacular display of fireworks in front of Old Main. Thus did the sophomores with fun and frolic, with dignity and decorum introduce the new students to some of the finest in St. Olaf's tradition and spirit.

We did put on a play that year, "Ladies and Huzzars," a Polish comedy, even though there was no chance for the cast to have even one rehearsal on the stage. It was erected in the late afternoon while the cadets were still playing basketball, and the play was presented that evening. December 7th, under the auspices of the student body, another memorial service was observed for St. Olaf's gold star sons who now numbered thirteen.

To give a bit of Christmas cheer this year for the cadets who were not on leave, the Northfield Red Cross chapter put on a party for them in the Gymnasium and furnished Christmas trees for both the "S. S. Lexington" and the "S. S. Enterprise". Women students provided three hundred seventy-five Christmas-wrapped gifts.

Came the new year 1944. By this time our abnormal college life had become almost the customary, and yet it was not normal. The long drawn-out conflict was wearing and hard on the morale of the students. There were anxieties, tensions, restlessness. It was difficult for many of them to see the importance of college work under the circumstances or the significance of "keeping America strong at home." This was a drab winter, too, mild but practically snowless. Our salvation was our skating rink which provided outdoor winter fun clear to the end of March. Because of mild January weather the ice on the rink melted and the

water practically disappeared. But thanks to a freezing spell in early February and the indefatigable labors of the groundsman in charge, the rink was reflooded and restored. Some fifty students participated in the skating exhibition in February. For the closing number the girls appeared in red, white, and blue dresses, culminating their routine in a striking V formation and a salute to the flag.

There was an exciting overtime basketball game with Carleton which we won. Our squad was composed of thirteen cadets and four St. Olaf men. We had our usual Lenten services and were pleased when under the new commandant, who seemed much concerned about spiritual matters, the Protestant cadets in a body joined us at services.

Spring ushered in the recital season. Steensland Hall was now used by the Navy as a code room. The ever-expandable Agnes Mellby living room also became our recital hall. "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was the play given that year with an all-woman cast. Bottom, played by Gertrude Fjeldstad, practically stole the show. Commencement, now shortened to a two-day period, was an almost somber occasion. There was the noticeable absence of many of those who would normally have received their degrees that day, and there was ill-concealed tension because of the war situation in general. Just two days later the news broke of the Allied invasion of France.

During the late winter and spring the Navy Pre-Flight Training school was gradually being phased out and was being replaced by a Navy and Marine Refresher course. A new program involving the cooperation of St. Olaf with six large hospitals and known as the Cadet Nurses Training Corps was begun after the close of the regular school year. This was an intensive and concentrated program for which St. Olaf provided three months' instruction in the academic courses required. In the corps were 115 young women. Miss Elaine Tracy served as their St. Olaf director. The program proved so successful that it was repeated the following summer.

With the gradual phasing out of the Pre-Flight Training school and the smaller units involved in the Navy-Marine Refresher course, the question was raised as to how long Mohn Hall would be needed by the military. The applications for women students far exceeded the number that could be ac-

commodated even with three in a room in Agnes Mellby Hall and using all possible available off-campus housing. Not until August 28th did we get the word that "S. S. Lexington" would be returned to the college and that the Navy would house all of its men in Ytterboe Hall. This was less than two weeks before the opening of school.

Such exciting and busy days! Mohn Hall had to be converted from barracks to a women's dormitory again. Beds stored in Ytterboe Hall attic had to be hauled over to replace the navy bunks; dressers, chairs, desks taken out of storage; window drapes dry-cleaned and hung; living room furniture and rugs restored; rooms painted, and extra washrooms converted into utility rooms.

By September 11th, registration day, while there were many things yet to be done, Mohn Hall was ready to welcome some over a hundred women students again! At the opening convocation that year it was announced that there were enrolled 605 women and 84 men for a total of 689. By the end of the academic year the number totaled 789, still in the proportion of seven to one.

While life at the college in general followed much the same pattern as those of the two preceding war years, there were some events that stand out unforgettably. There was a constant awareness of the fearful struggle in which we were engaged as the tide of battle increased in fierceness and the dreadful slaughter of human lives went on unabated. New gold stars were being added to our service flag. Chapel, church services, spiritual emphasis week, dormitory devotions, all took on a more personal and profound meaning. Mention might be made of a few of the events of this year that were especially remembered, some relatively trivial perhaps, others truly momentous.

Homecoming was made especially memorable by the impressive ceremonies in connection with the inauguration on October 14th of Dr. Clemens M. Granskou as President of St. Olaf College. Many distinguished guests from other educational institutions as well as alumni and other friends of the college came for the occasion. It stands out as one of the happy and most festive days of the year.

Just before the close of the first semester the seniors had a

supper party. They numbered one hundred twenty. Of the twelve men in the class seven were completing their work at that time. A moving feature of the program was the reading of the roster of one hundred twenty-five men from their class who were then in the service.

There was much excitement in Agnes Mellby one day in January. A representative from the Office of War Information was to spend two days on the campus taking pictures of groups of women students in a variety of situations: in the Library, at meals, in the dormitory, about the campus, at evening devotions, in their rooms studying or visiting. This was for the magazine *Victory*, whose purpose was to illustrate democratic institutions and the functioning of democracy in various areas of life to counteract Nazi propaganda. It was translated into twelve European languages and distributed by the underground where it could not be sold on the news stands. St. Olaf had been chosen for the educational aspect as an outstanding college of liberal arts in America and one founded by a national group which had contributed much religiously and culturally while it in turn had become an integral part of American life.

On February 21st and 22nd came the dramatic news that our missionaries who had been interned and imprisoned in the Philippines for so long, many of them St. Olaf graduates, had been released by men of the American Marines and Navy.

Subdued voices and an awesome silence pervaded the campus as we mourned the sudden death of President Roosevelt those tragic days in April. The memorial service at the college was conducted by the Navy unit and was most impressive as was the gripping prayer and memorial sermon delivered by Pastor Arnold Nelson of St. John's the following Sunday.

V. E. Day! Could one ever forget it? There were services in the Gymnasium, a song by the Navy chorus, another by the Girls chorus, Rachmaninoff's "Glory to God in the Highest," a talk by Lieutenant W. A. Harbinson, followed by Dr. Granskou, who spoke on "The Responsibility of the Victor," and then the "Star Spangled Banner" sung as only an emotion-filled St. Olaf student body could sing it.

By order of the Office of Defense Transportation the music festival was called off. Even commencement could be only a local affair. Though only college and town people could be

present, the music festival was a festive one just the same. A special choir reunion had originally been planned for this occasion to honor Professor P. G. Schmidt for his forty years of service as choir manager. Though the donors were almost all "in absentia," the tributes and purse were duly presented. Who that was there can ever forget Dr. F. Melius Christiansen's inimitable introduction to this phase of the activities when he said, "We are going to have a party. It is going to be for Professor Schmidt. You are happiest when you give credit to someone else for all that he has done." Excerpts from letters of tribute and appreciation from all over the world, read by Professor J. J. Thompson, concluded this delightful program.

Hiroshima! And shortly after that, V. J. Day with the consequent order for the gradual disbanding of the Navy unit at the college. The Navy program closed officially December 17th. The last battalion of thirty men sat in a body at one of the Christmas concerts and left the following day.

College year 1944-45 had been momentous. It had witnessed the inauguration of President Granskou, the death of President Roosevelt and the swearing in of President Harry Truman, the San Francisco Conference and the inception of the United Nations, the atomic bomb, V. E. Day, and V. J. Day. On the campus there had been a quiet but consistent adjustment to meet the varying demands of the day. The student directory for 1945-46 reveals an interesting story of how the women of the college rose to the responsibilities of leadership. For the first time in its history, a woman president, Miss Betty Jean Halvorson, presided over the St. Olaf student body. The vice president and secretary were also women, as were the members of the editorial staff of the Manitou Messenger. Junior and senior class presidents were women. Every co-educational student organization except the Commerce Club, the Psychology Club, and the Choir had women presidents. Besides the departmental clubs, they included such varied groups as the Board of Religious Activities, the Campus Players, the Honor Council, the Honors Society, the International Relations club. Tribute is due the fine leadership of these young women who unspectacularly but valiantly kept "the home fires burning."

This year, too, marked the beginning of the return to civilian life for millions of young men and women throughout the world.

Already the number of young men enrolled at St. Olaf, both freshmen and returning students, had increased. But there began also the return of large numbers of service men, which the following year was to become almost a deluge. So our campus population began approaching more normal numbers. But this was not a mere return to pre-war days. During these six years of war, in four of which we as a people had been directly involved, we had lived much and deeply. Our horizons had been enlarged. We had begun to grasp a little better the meaning of the term "one world." It was no longer academic but personal. As a people we were faced with new challenges and great responsibilities. At college, too, we had to gear ourselves to the new demands and opportunities of the day. Continuing to build on the basic foundations on which we were established as a Christian liberal arts college, we committed ourselves to do our utmost to qualify our students for making their contribution to the rebuilding of our shattered and chaotic world.

Getting Back to "Normalcy"

FOR THE MEN who had been in the service, some of them for as many as three years, it was not easy to adjust to the routine of an academic program, nor was it easy for the college to make a proper provision for them. They began coming the second semester of the year the war ended (1945-46), some as returning students, others as new. Altogether the men students still made up only about one-half of the student body.

The following year, however, they almost overwhelmed us. Applications from both men and women were received far beyond the numbers we could accommodate. The number of new women admitted was strictly limited because it was felt that, everything else being equal, preference should be given to service men who already had lost from one to three years of their normal college time. But neither did we have room for all the men that applied. Every available off-campus room in Northfield was pressed into service. The W. E. Schilling farm, Spring Brook, had been purchased by the college. One of the large farm buildings was remodelled and made into a bunk house for some twenty men; the old gymnasium in Ytterboe Hall was converted into a barracks that made room for forty men. Old Navy bunks, tables, and lockers were the furnishings. Forest Hall, one of the buildings belonging to the Odd Fellows Home complex and which had been rented by the college for a dormitory for women, was now given over to the men and twenty-five were housed there. This was all far from normal college life yet, but

it was civilian. A strong academic program was offered, and the men were eager to get going.

That year the freshmen numbered 488 men and 261 women for a total of 749, almost half of the student body of 1660. To assimilate such a large group of new students into the community life and spirit of St. Olaf, let alone provide for their physical needs, was a challenge to both faculty and students. A survey of the class today indicates that they must have succeeded rather well, for its roster lists many who since graduation have distinguished themselves in their chosen fields and who are rendering significant service to community and church.

Through government assistance a veteran's housing complex was built on the college grounds below Old Main bordering Lincoln Street. It was composed of four dormitory units each housing eighteen single men and fifteen apartments for couples. This became known as Viking Court and helped to alleviate the housing shortage. Place was even found for half-a-dozen trailer homes in this area.

There were many married men among the returning veterans. Such other apartments, many makeshift, as were available for them were scattered throughout the town. Most of the wives were strangers to Northfield and to each other. In the fall of 1946, I talked the situation over with some of them and invited them all to an evening's get-acquainted party in Agnes Mellby Lounge. The result was that they decided to form a wives' club, which they named Lion's Mates. There were over a hundred members. Mrs. Robert Forsythe, (Mary McCornack,) was the first president of the group. They met monthly in the recreation room of Agnes Mellby and had excellent programs both informative and practical. The following years they included some special events, a potluck supper for their families in December in St. John's Fellowship Hall, and a families' picnic in the spring. They even put on a variety program for the college. This organization flourished for three or four years, but when the number of married students was gradually reduced to a very few, the need for it was gone and it was quietly phased out.

The decoration of off-campus houses and dormitories in line with the theme chosen for the year has been a regular feature of homecoming events. There was keen competition for the prizes

when so many of the students lived in private homes. One year the theme was "The College of Our Fathers," the first line of our college hymn. Viking Court came forth with most ingenious and mirth-provoking decorations. A long clothes line hung with baby garments labelled in large letters, "The Fathers of Our College."

Viking Court was planned only to "tide over" the housing shortage for a period of five years, but served the college for all of ten. By that time several large new dormitories for men had been erected on the campus. The temporary structures were removed and an unobstructed vista up the slope to the Old Main was restored.

Some Distinguished Campus Visitors

THROUGHOUT THE years there have been many distinguished visitors at St. Olaf—artists, authors, statesmen, leaders in church and state—to whom I was privileged to serve as hostess. Among these, just to mention a few, were Kirsten Flagstad, Mrs. J. Borden Harriman, Ambassador to Norway at the time of the invasion, Eunice Hilton, Betsy Kjellsberg, Christopher Morley, Robert Taft, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Haile Selassie.

Through the generosity of the Maude and Louis Hill Family Foundation, several Minnesota colleges were enabled for several years to secure as guest lecturer an outstanding authority in his field whom we otherwise could not have afforded to invite to our campuses. Those who came to St. Olaf spent six weeks with us, February and half of March. Several of the men were accompanied by their wives. It was not easy to find housing in Northfield for a six-weeks period at that time of the year. When this program was started I had already built my little home at 30 Lincoln Lane and so was privileged to rent my house to the college for these guests during their stay at St. Olaf. Two of the speakers stayed in guest rooms at the college. The other three with their wives lived at my house. I myself moved up to the guest room in Hilleboe Hall during the time and thoroughly enjoyed these six weeks with the seniors in their dormitory.

Dr. and Mrs. J. S. Whale from England were the first to occupy my house. The next year it was Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Compton,

and lastly Dr. and Mrs. Buckminster Fuller. It was a wonderful privilege for St. Olaf to have these men on the staff and for students and faculty alike to get to know both lecturers and their wives personally. Many opportunities were provided in small discussion groups for such personal contacts. John Mason Brown and Dr. George Cressy were the other two St. Olaf Hill Foundation lecturers.

Senator Robert Taft visited Northfield September 7, 1939. I was informed by Herman Roe of the Northfield "News" of his presence in Northfield and that the following day was his 50th birthday. Hurriedly a little pre-birthday party was arranged for him in Agnes Mellby Hall with cake, candles, and all. The guests were not many, but included Herman Roe, Congressman August Andresen, President L. W. Boe, Arthur Lee, J. Jørgen Thompson, and Lyndon King of Minneapolis, a Yale classmate of Mr. Taft. The cake was inscribed "Happy Birthday. . .50. . .Taft for President."

One year we had as a guest speaker Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, who addressed the students on the work of the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations. She was housed in Hilleboe Hall. The Student Senate was in charge of hospitality for her and her secretary, and the members got a real thrill out of breakfasting with them in the Hilleboe Hall Lounge.

One of our alumni, Joseph Simonson, served as the U. S. Ambassador to Ethiopia for four years (1953-1957). He became well-acquainted with Emperor Haile Selassie. On the Emperor's visit to the U.S. in the summer of 1954, arrangements were made by Ambassador Simonson for the Emperor to visit the campus for a couple of hours.

A glamorous tea table was set in Agnes Mellby Hall living room with an eager group of hostesses ready to serve the Emperor and his party on their arrival. Outside the building, college and city officials walked about to be on hand to receive the distinguished visitors. When the time set for their arrival came and there was no sign of the party, there was some anxiety on the part of the awaiting hosts. After some half hour's delay, however, after having circled Carleton and met President Laurence Gould and other Carleton College officers, the colorful procession came up St. Olaf Avenue accompanied by the Minnesota National Guard and the highway patrol. It was of course a delightful experience to meet

the Emperor, and his aides, together with other Ethiopian governmental officials. With a friendly wave from all of us, the group was off again for its next destination after their hour-and-a-half visit at St. Olaf.

But it was the visit of Crown Prince Olav (now King Olav) and Crown Princess Martha, May 7th and 8th, 1939, that was the most exciting of all. The whole college was involved in preparation for their arrival. They and their party were to be housed in Agnes Mellby Hall, completed just a year previously. The entire first floor was turned over to the royal party. The students who occupied the rooms on first floor vacated them and moved in with friends living on the floors above. Mrs. Rygh, the housemother, and I moved up to second floor to the room at the head of the stairway. Since this was the first year that Agnes Mellby Hall was occupied, there were a number of friends of the college who planned to make this an occasion to see both the building and the royal party at the same time. But this was to be distinctly a St. Olaf College visit by their Royal Highnesses. This information was widely broadcast, and at the same time the announcement was made that the royal party would be in Minneapolis on their return trip from the West Coast and that that meeting was open to the general public.

The personal maids and the valets arrived two hours before the rest of the party. They looked over the quarters, unpacked baggage, and hung up clothes. I noticed with interest that the first thing they did was to put large photographs of the children on the dressers.

The living room in the quarters of the Dean of Women was turned over to the Prince and Princess to serve as their private retreat. The Princess slept in the adjoining bedroom and the Prince in the room just off the lobby (now the guest room). The rest of the party was housed in the two first floor student sections with the Chamberlain, Major Nicolai Ramm Oestgaard, and the Lady-in-waiting, Mrs. Oestgaard, occupying the room closest to the Crown Prince and Princess. The students had cleared one closet in each room for the guests, made up the beds with fresh linen, put out soap and towels, and had done what they could to make the accommodations as much like those provided in a home as possible.

A detachment of the Minnesota National Guard under the com-

mand of Adjutant General Ellard Walsh was sent to the campus. Two guards were stationed at each door of the dormitory and others at strategic places about the campus. No visitors were allowed in the dormitory, no fond parents or curiosity seekers. During the period of the visit, there was always one senior student resident at each door to identify to the state troopers the residents as they went in and out of the building. Next to having the Crown Prince and Princess as their housemates, the girls experienced their greatest thrill in having the doors swung open for them by a national guardsman. That was royal treatment for them.

The royal party arrived about five o'clock after first having been greeted by Northfield citizens and officials at Bridge Square. Students, faculty, staff, and guests were gathered in front of the Finseth band stand to receive them with the college band providing appropriate music. After a welcome by President Boe, Sigvald Holden spoke in Norwegian on behalf of the student body and flowers were presented to the Crown Princess by Kathryn Jorgenson.

After the reception at the band stand, the members of the party were assigned their rooms and given an opportunity to rest before dinner. Our visitors had expressed the wish that they could see as normal a sample of college life as possible. So the party ate in Ytterboe Hall dining room with the freshmen and were served a typical Sunday dinner, the only variation being that it was served at night instead of at noon.

At 8:15 p.m. there was a concert by the St. Olaf choir in the Gymnasium which was followed by a gala reception for faculty, staff, and guests in the Agnes Mellby living room with refreshments served in the recreation room. The next morning a late breakfast was served in their private living room to the Crown Prince and Princess and to Mr. and Mrs. Oestgaard, prepared by some of the home economics seniors in the advanced food class. Wishing to use whatever local products were available, they included with the customary breakfast of grapefruit, toast, bacon and eggs, and coffee, Northfield's Malt-O-Meal cereal. It was apparently a novelty to the guests to be served porridge for breakfast.

The big event of the day was the morning convocation in the college gymnasium at which the Crown Prince was awarded an

honorary doctor's degree from St. Olaf. Large American and Norwegian flags were in place at the rear of the platform. All the dignitaries involved including General Ellard Walsh were seated in an impressive semicircle. Everything was proper and formal. The greetings and speeches were given; the Crown Prince was at the lectern giving his response. Then came the never-to-be-forgotten incident that has become a cherished story in the annals of St. Olaf. Beloved Dr. C. A. Mellby, whose traditional fidgeting and often unconscious movements had brought his chair to the edge of the platform, toppled backward, chair and all, and disappeared from sight.

It was like a bomb shell. Breathless silence in the entire assembly! On the platform startled expressions. The general jumped to his feet, and then from behind the curtain the chair slid onto the platform with Dr. Mellby in it calmly polishing his glasses. Mr. John Berntsen had been behind the platform, caught the chair, and pushed it back into place. That broke the ice; a cheer went through the audience before calm was restored. President Boe said, "No one but Dr. Mellby could have removed the stiff formality of the occasion so ingeniously and gotten by with it so graciously."

Crown Princess Martha had been ordered to rest as much as possible on this trip and not to make any public speeches. The Crown Prince had been invited to a luncheon given by a group of doctors and lawyers in Rochester. Princess Martha had felt it necessary to decline the invitation to be the guest of the Rochester ladies. After a luncheon with the women members of the party in the little dining room in Mohn Hall, she rested for awhile and then with her lady-in-waiting went out to inspect the campus at leisure. They even went over to the dairy barn to see the Holsteins. Her husband was much interested in the development of herds on some of his holdings in Norway. On her return she laughingly said that she had learned something new about cattle care, that cows were entertained with radio music and she wondered whether that helped produce more milk. Apparently the herdsman had a radio in the barn for his own entertainment.

Upon her return from her campus walk, coffee was served the women members of the party together with college hostesses. After a short rest the lady-in-waiting, Mrs. Oestgaard, told me that their next stop was the Grand Canyon. She said that Princess

Martha had noticed the comfortable-looking shoes that the college girls wore, that her high-heeled shoes were unfit for any walking around at the canyon and wondered if someone could go with them to buy more suitable footwear. It was arranged that the President of the Women's Student Government Association, Ruth Borge, should be their escort. The store they entered didn't look too prepossessing for the windows were practically covered with sales advertising. But the women found the shoes they wanted. Each bought a pair. The next day the windows of Sletten's shoe store were cleared, and in full view was a chair on which was placed a pair of shoes with a placard stating that this was the kind of shoe bought by Princess Martha and her lady-in-waiting. The store was immediately sold out of shoes of that style.

The living room and foyer of Agnes Mellby Hall served as the general gathering place for the members of the party and college and other official personnel and visitors. The press, local, Twin City, Norwegian-American and Norwegian, was in constant evidence, with reporters, interviewers, and photographers. It was interesting to observe that when Prince Olav was interviewed he always seemed to want Princess Martha near enough so that she could hear both questions and the answers he gave, and make any additional comments she might judge appropriate. She impressed us as a very keen-minded person.

Whenever Prince Olav spoke either to a large assembly or at smaller groups or in giving expression of appreciation for one thing or another, he always included her so the phrase "The Crown Princess and I" became a familiar one. Both of them were most delightful guests and in every way displayed both the dignity and the charm associated in our minds with the terms "Prince" and "Princess."

“The Play’s the Thing”

MUSIC HAS PLAYED an important role in the curricular and extracurricular program of the college from its very beginning. In fact music was one of the six courses listed in the first year’s program of studies for St. Olaf’s School. The story of music at St. Olaf during the first forty-five years, culminating in the Choir’s first triumphal tour of the East in 1920, is interestingly related by Eugene Simpson in his book entitled “The St. Olaf Choir.”

No official recognition, however, had up to that time been accorded the dramatic arts. There had been instruction in public speaking and private lessons in elocution were given. Course offerings in English were expanded to include “Literary Interpretation” and “Interpretative Reading of Dramatic Selections.” Dramatic readings and tableaux were popular features of student programs and were in a sense the forerunner of our now long tradition of high accomplishment in the field of dramatics. In the spring of 1918 a pageant “The Spirit of America Speaks” was presented by the students under the auspices of the Women’s Student Government Association for the benefit of the Red Cross. Another pageant “America Yesterday and Today” was given the following year. These were staged at 6:30 p.m. on the green (then the athletic field) between Agnes Mellby Hall and the former Mohn Hall. One recalls vividly Florence Simerson (Mrs. Laurence Field), the narrator, perched in a tree on the edge of the Valley. Fortunately the evening was beautiful and still. With her excellent enunciation coupled with the aid of a megaphone

she could be heard over the entire field. While these performances were decidedly amateurish, the audiences both years were most enthusiastic. The participants, from those driving westward in the prairie schooner to those taking part in the "Indian War Dances" or "The Frolic of the Flowers," were delighted at having a part. Not least was their satisfaction in adding to the Red Cross coffers.

During these years, too, several societies, particularly the Phi Kappa Phi together with the Alpha Beta Chi and the Delta Chi with their brother society The Alpha Kappa, put on several plays directed by their own members. There was a growing interest on the part of the students in dramatics and a desire for opportunity for participation in such activities on a larger scale. Finally under the leadership of Dr. George Weida Spohn a plan was worked out by which the English Department would sponsor a play each year and for which try-outs were open to any student. April 21, 1921, marks St. Olaf's official pioneer step in dramatics with the presentation of Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice" on the eve of Shakespeare's birthday, with Ruth Rorvik (Mrs. Melvin Hauge) as Portia and Joy Nelson as Shylock.

Several circumstances had mitigated against the presentation of plays officially by the college. There was, it is true, a not inconsiderable number of the college constituency who disapproved strongly of anything that might be labelled theater. But there were other factors, too. There were no facilities for putting on such plays. There was no auditorium except Hoyme Memorial Chapel and that was not suitable. Then there was the question of securing within the limited budget a qualified director. When the Gymnasium was completed in 1920, there was great jubilation for now there would be more space not only for the physical education and athletic programs but for social events and other all-college functions, including plays. Fortunate it was, too, that Dr. Spohn was able to secure as director a next-door neighbor and close friend of the family, a woman with wide experience in the field of dramatics, wife of a local dentist, Mrs. R. D. Kelsey. Thus entered into the life of St. Olaf a woman who in spite of all the handicaps and lack of facilities that she faced was instrumental together with Dr. Spohn and other members of the English department in building up a remarkable and in some respects unique record of student dramatic performance.

It was decided to present this first play in a setting as represen-

tative of the Shakespearean stage as possible. A replica of the Old Fortune Theatre with its upper stage, middle roof-covered one, and its front stage was built. This stage, constructed by Henry Nycklemoe, served as the setting for Shakespearean plays for some half-a-dozen years following the initial performance.

The dramatic urge grew. Less than a month after the presentation of "The Merchant of Venice," the first Norwegian play, "En Fallit" by Bjornson, was given in the Gymnasium under the auspices of the Norwegian department and directed by Ragna Tangjerd (Mrs. Oscar Grimsby). This performance was a feature of the 11th annual convention of the "Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study" meeting at St. Olaf. Thus the spring of 1921 saw the beginning of a long and distinguished tradition of Shakespearean and Norwegian classical performances at St. Olaf.

The next fall "The Taming of the Shrew" was given with Mrs. Kelsey, professionally known as Elizabeth Walsingham Kelsey, directing. Gonnard Felland, who had distinguished himself as Gratiano in the "Merchant of Venice," had the part of Petruchio and Arvilla Knutson that of Katharina. Already people interested in drama in other communities had begun to hear of St. Olaf's emphasis on the production of Shakespeare and the excellence of the performances. When, therefore, the third comedy "As You Like It" was staged in November 1922, there were many from out-of-town and from other institutions in attendance.

The following school year we ventured further. Hoyme Chapel had burned in the fall and the Gymnasium had been pressed into many extra services. Why not capitalize on our out-of-doors? The result was "A Midsummer Night's Dream" given May 31, 1924, in the Vale of Tawasentha, more familiarly known as Norway Valley. No one who saw that performance will ever forget it. The gently sloping tree-covered hillsides leading into the valley formed a natural amphitheater. At the base of the slopes three towering spruce trees with connecting stone walls made a perfect background for the greensward stage. The acoustics were excellent. The seats were primitive, plain boards that we upholstered by bringing pillows or blankets. But with the afterglow of the sunset behind us (this was before daylight saving time), the glimmer of the moon through the leaves above us, and the colorful pageantry on the slope before us, we were transported into a world of fantasy, quite oblivious to physical inconveniences. Of

the many delights of this performance, one of the most enthralling was the colored lighting effect that made the fairies appear as though they came down the hillside into the valley dancing on a moonbeam.

In the spring of 1925 on May 26th, a play was again staged in the Vale of Tawasentha. This time it was the first tragedy attempted, "King Lear." Rain had been threatening all afternoon and the skies were leaden. A large audience gathered nevertheless, equipped with umbrellas and raincoats. There were some anxious moments early in the play when a few large raindrops fell, but no shower developed. However, just when the storm scene in the play was to be enacted, nature added realism to the show with lightning flashes, thunder claps, and winds swirling through the treetops, but, fortunately, no rain. The speeches in this scene could not be heard, but when the storm in the play was over so was nature's little flurry and the play continued to the end with but a small portion of the audience gone.

Now for a number of years, two Shakespearean plays were given annually, one in the fall in the Gymnasium in connection with a three-day Foundation Day and homecoming weekend which took place the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nearest the 6th of November. The other was put on in the Vale of Tawasentha in the late spring and sometimes repeated at commencement. "The Two Gentlemen of Verona," "A Comedy of Errors," "Much Ado About Nothing," and "Hamlet" with John Sulerud in the lead may be mentioned among those not previously staged that were presented at homecoming. New plays given in the valley included "Love's Labor Lost," "Twelfth Night," "A Winter's Tale," "The Tempest" with Helen Bauder as Ariel, in addition to the re-enactment of some plays given earlier.

An impromptu behind-the-scenes act is remembered with amusement by members of the cast in "The Tempest." Adolph Lium had the part of Prospero. All at once he discovered that the property man had apparently neglected to saw his wand so that it would break easily. Suddenly he disappeared from the stage and the rest of the players could hear the unmistakable sound of a saw reducing the thickness of the wand to breaking size. At this particular point Prospero had a line to say which in itself was not too important but was the cue for the next speaker. With much relish one of the lesser noblemen gave Prospero's line and

provided the proper cue. When Prospero's next speech was due he was back on stage with the doctored wand in hand!

When Hoyme Memorial Chapel burned in 1923, the physics department which had been located in the basement found temporary housing in the old gym in Ytterboe Hall. Two years later Holland Hall was completed and all the sciences were located in this new building. With the pressing need for some place in which to present plays, it was decided to convert the old gym into an auditorium by building a movable stage and providing folding chairs for seats. Already the French department had put on a French play for its students. Now, with this auditorium available there followed a perfect rash of plays by the French, Spanish, German, and Latin departments, by some of the societies, and one-act plays by members of the play production class recently added to the speech curriculum.

The English department, too, felt that now it could branch out in its all-college productions to other plays that could be presented on a smaller stage. The first deviation from Shakespeare was a morality play, "Everyman." This was followed the next year by an early American play, "The Contrast," written by an ancestor of Mrs. Spohn and recently revived by Cornelia Otis Skinner. Among succeeding plays presented during these years may be mentioned "The Goose Hangs High," "Little Women," "The Rivals," "The Black Flamingo," "Charles and Mary Lamb," and "Giants in the Earth," dramatized by Mr. Thomas Job of the English department at Carleton.

It now became the custom to give only one Shakespearean play a year and that usually in the spring, most often in the Valley. Several times the green between Agnes Mellby Hall and the woods of the valley served as the stage; another time the play was given on the athletic field with the lilacs half way down the southeast slope of Thorson Hall forming the background. More recently "The Merry Wives of Windsor" was given in front of Old Main. This play was made memorable by the resourcefulness of our present director, Ralph Haugen, when faced with the news in the morning on the day of the performance that his lead and another of his players were too ill to participate. Mr. Haugen himself took one part and Mr. Ishmael Gardner of the department of speech, who had once played Falstaff, stepped into the breach and with book in hand to jog

his memory "out-falstaffed" Falstaff. It was a wonderful fun evening!

To be pioneers in St. Olaf dramatics required a great deal of patience, fortitude and perseverance. In view of the very limited facilities for dramatic presentations, the high calibre of the Shakespearean performances and likewise of the Norwegian plays is a tribute to the directors, the students participating, both those of the cast and of the production staff, and to the campus crews whose assistance was invaluable. Rehearsals had to be arranged wherever classrooms were available and sometimes at the oddest hours. The Gymnasium had to serve so many purposes that the stage for the play could be put up only a few days before the public performance. For several weeks rehearsals for the out-of-door plays were held before breakfast beginning at five o'clock. It was sometimes quite chilly even then. Invariably Mrs. Kelsey brought coffee and doughnuts or rolls with her to wake-up and warm-up her cast. For the out-of-doors plays there was always concern about the weather, the dampness of the valley, and mosquitoes. Then there was the problem of costumes. Many were rented but others had to be made, some by the players themselves, many by Mrs. Kelsey, others by the ever-helpful Mrs. Hannah Glasoe. These became the property of the department. Some valuable period costumes too were donated to the department by interested people. But there was no place to store them. Mrs. Kelsey became in a very literal sense "The Mistress of the Wardrobe" for she assumed the responsibility of keeping all of them at her home. It was a familiar sight to see her before dress rehearsals tripping across the campus her arms laden with costumes. Of wonderful help was Mrs. Spohn, affectionately known as "Muddy." With her delicious sense of humor and her contagious chuckle as well as her intense interest in every production, she was a tonic for everyone, director and members of the cast as well. She faithfully attended rehearsals for several weeks before the performance and by her presence and spirit gave encouragement and support.

It was a big step forward when Ytterboe Hall Auditorium became available for staging plays. But the difficulties were by no means all overcome. This was a many-purpose room still available for smaller group social affairs. There were problems of getting it reserved for long enough periods and suitable hours for

rehearsals. No place was provided for the storing of costumes and equipment. Mrs. Kelsey still came a couple of days before a play with her arms full of costumes, or bringing some special furniture or accessories from her treasure trove of antiques.

It was interesting to watch Mrs. Kelsey at work. At times one would see her over at one end of the auditorium play-text in hand, seemingly just talking with one of the players. Some minutes later she would be engaged in similar conversation with another. In between she would listen to those going through a scene on the stage. She had a remarkable ability to draw a student out. As she herself said, "I can tell them how to give each speech, how to inflect their voices to bring out the meaning of each line. Or, I can do as I have done, help them see the meaning and then guide them in the interpretation of these characters. It has been thrilling to watch them develop."

When we became involved in World War II, even the facilities of Ytterboe Auditorium, limited as they were, were no longer available, for the entire building was given over to the Navy Pre-Flight unit. For a number of years dramatic production was largely limited to plays put on by a group called the Campus Players who initially were interested in getting experience for directing high school plays. They were assisted by Mrs. Kelsey as advisor and by her play production class. After the war, application was made to the government for a war surplus type of a building suitable for a little theater, but nothing came of it. Meanwhile in 1948 when Ytterboe "Auditorium" was again vacated, it was once more taken into use for dramatic performances. Its facilities were meagre, but it did have a stage constructed by the play production class on which were presented, among others, "Pygmalion," Dickens' "Christmas Carol," and "Candida." The "Imaginary Invalid" was put on in the Gymnasium in 1949.

Finally in the spring of 1950 a little theater which had been dreamed of and struggled for during many years became a reality. For now under the direction of Edward Sövik Jr. of the department of art, Ytterboe Auditorium was completely remodelled and transformed into a theater seating 250 people, with a proper size stage, upholstered seats, and a graduated system of seating, with dressing rooms and wardrobe space. The ceiling was insulated, a ventilating system installed, and an

attractive entrance with lobby provided. The first play to be presented in the new little theater, now known as the Drama Studio, was Robert Bennet's dramatization of "Pilgrim's Progress" on April 21, 1950. Since the studio was not quite completed at this time, the dedication was set for June 2 when "Twelfth Night," already presented for the students was produced for the commencement guests. It was a joyous day for everyone. It was especially so for Mrs. Kelsey of whom a reviewer said, "the faith of thirty years has brought a fitting reward to an indomitable spirit" and for Mr. Ralph Haugen, who had joined the staff that year and co-directed the initial performances in the Drama Studio.

Inadequate though these facilities are for the size of our present student body, the Drama Studio has served us well during these years and has enabled St. Olaf to maintain a splendid tradition of student dramatic performances.

Following the initial performance of "En Fallit" in 1921, the annual presentation of a play in the Norwegian language continued for almost thirty years. During those years quite a number of the students spoke the language fluently. Among those carrying leading roles are found such names as Joseph Simonson, Nora Fjelde, Theodore Jorgenson, Julia Rognlie, Delia Danielson, Gustav Odegaard, Kathryn Jorgenson. Except for a year when she was on leave, Miss Esther Gulbrandson was the enthusiastic and dynamic director of these plays. She faced the same problems of staging and costume storage as did Mrs. Kelsey. During her year of absence Mr. Theodore Jorgenson and Mr. Clarence Clausen co-directed Holberg's "Jeppe paa Bjerget."

Most of the plays staged were by Ibsen and included such productions as "Samfundets Støtter (The Pillars of Society)," "De Unges Forbund (The League of Youth)," "Et Dukkehjem (A Doll's House)," "Gjengangere (Ghosts)," "Vildanden (The Wild Duck)," "Hedda Gabler," "Peer Gynt," and "Brand."

In May 1925 instead of staging an Ibsen play the department put on Bjornson's spectacular "Sigurd Jorsalfar (Sigurd the Crusader)." This involved some fifty participants and included not only speaking parts but chorus, solos, and orchestra with complete musical score by Grieg. So impressive was this presentation that five years later its re-enactment was requested. After that it was repeated every five years, and was performed

four times. For the 1935 performance the part of Sigurd Jorsalfar was given to Walter Fleischman (now known by the name of Walter Craig) who already had demonstrated exceptional histrionic ability in English department plays. Like his counter-part brother King Oystein, played by Gustav Odegaard, he was an excellent singer. However, he did not speak nor understand one word of Norwegian. But he was an excellent imitator. By process of word for word pronunciation and interpretation of the play under the tutelage of Mrs. Gertrude Boe Overby and Miss Gulbrandson, he surmounted this language handicap and enacted the part of the fiery and adventurous Sigurd in flawless Norwegian with all its characteristic intonations. The acting in all of the plays presented received high praise from audience and reviewers. Especially remembered among the many notable scenes is that of Aases's death in "Peer Gynt" with Alvin Grundahl taking the part of Peer and Gladys Glendenning (Mrs. Frank Andrews) that of Aases's mother.

These plays attracted not only students and faculty members but many Norwegian-speaking people from the cities as well as from Northfield and surrounding communities. The annual presentation of such drama in the Norwegian language was unique among midwestern colleges. With World War II this tradition was interrupted; for three year no plays were staged. Then after the war with the number of students who spoke the language steadily decreasing, the task of directing became increasingly more time-consuming and difficult. "Til Seters" put on in 1950 brought to an end this fine dramatic tradition at St. Olaf.

The Alumni Benefit Play

The building of our present athletic field was one of many projects of the St. Olaf Alumni Association. Fund raising activities of various kinds were undertaken by alumni groups. Alumni members at St. Olaf decided that they, too, should do something special for this cause. The result was a benefit play put on in the Gymnasium by alumni and faculty members, "The Rise and Fall of Silas Lapham" with Mrs. Kelsey directing. This play will probably be best remembered for Arthur Paulson as the villain and his expressive long-fingered hands. Another

scene will be recalled with amusement. It was at a serious moment almost at the close of the play when the "stone wall" behind the speakers, unknown to them, fell backwards. The actors were stopped by the unexpected laughter of the audience. They had barely started again when there was another outburst of even greater hilarity. The bewildered actors turned around to find that the stone wall was slowly rising into place again every stone intact. The play finally ended serenely and successfully. It netted a thousand dollars for the athletic field.

The 75th Anniversary Pageant

THE ANNIVERSARY PAGEANT, "An Adventure in Faith," presented on the 3rd and 5th of November 1949 is in the minds of many the most spectacular and impressive dramatic presentation so far staged at St. Olaf. The entire college was involved. All its artistic forces—literary, dramatic, music, and visual were utilized. The general chairman of the pageant committee was Ella Hjertaas (Mrs. Herman Roe). Esther Gulbrandson was chairman of the script writing. Other members of the pageant committee were William Benson, Arnold Flaten, David Johnson, Evelyn Jerdee, Nora Solum, Elizabeth Kelsey, and student representative Daryle Feldmeir. The pageant was directed by Mrs. Elizabeth Kelsey and Esther Gulbrandson and coordinated by Mr. John Manning. The art department under Arnold Flaten and the campus crew under John Bernsten took care of the stage construction, scenery, lighting, et cetera. And assisting were many unnamed and unheralded students and faculty.

From the stirring opening chorus of the Vikings leaping from their ship singing "Norönnä Folket de vil Fara" from "Sigurd Jorsalfar" to the climactic recession of the cast of over 400 who in spirit of high exaltation burst forth with ascending fervor and intensity in the challenging strains of "Fram Fram Christmen Crossmen," it was an artistic and spiritual adventure. One dramatic and emotion-packed episode followed upon another. One of these representing the story of the St. Olaf Choir was especially startling. Dr. F. Melius Christiansen had by this time been retired for some years and was not very well. When the time came for the choir to sing, with its long-time soloist, Gertrude Overby, in her old place, to the almost shocked astonishment of the audience Dr. Chris-

tiansen stepped out from amid the shadows of the partly darkened stage and directed the group with his old-time vigor. The response of the Choir to the old master's directing was almost electric and that of the audience overwhelming.

The story of St. Olaf is so full of drama and so excellently portrayed in "An Adventure in Faith" that it is to be hoped that the group that gathers for the 100th anniversary of the college may also have the opportunity through this same dramatic presentation enlarged by events of the last twenty-five years to re-live these high points in St. Olaf's story. The adventure will not cease with the 100th anniversary for St. Olaf will always be an Adventure in Faith.

‘Once Upon a Time’ Traditions and Other Miscellany

MANY TRADITIONS develop in a college community, some good that become permanent, some not so good that should be discarded. Some relate to the activities of the entire student body, others to smaller groups, classes, dormitories, and the like. Some worthy traditions are gradually abandoned because of changing circumstances, increased size of the student body, or other considerations. We have preserved many wonderful traditional events at St. Olaf which become the shared experience of all its students and serve as a unifying force among each college generation and those that have gone before: Homecoming, Founders Day, Christmas festival, the Shakespearean play, fine arts festival, and the like. A few traditions that have now gone by the board, most of which involved groups rather than the entire student body might be of interest.

Tower Party

THIS WAS AN INFORMAL late spring event held shortly before graduation at four o'clock on an afternoon. The senior women guided by the Dean of Women climbed the creaking stairways of the three levels of the tower of Old Main. They inscribed their names on the walls of the "Hall of Fame," viewed the country-side from the windows on all four sides, munched their popcorn, drank their lemonade, and seated on the ledge that ex-

tended around the upper window level, contributed a quotation or anecdote or a bit of philosophy as each might choose. This excursion to the uppermost regions of the campus closed appropriately with the singing of "High on Manitou Heights." This annual tower party came to an abrupt end when in World War II the building was requisitioned for the Navy and the space in the tower was used for storage.

The Alumni Pledge

UNTIL IT WAS DESTROYED by fire, commencement exercises were regularly held in Hoyne Memorial Chapel. After the services graduates and alumni would gather on the green in front of Old Main, the alumni forming an outer circle surrounding an inner circle of the new graduates. With the president of the Alumni Association presiding, the motion would be made to admit officially the new class into the Association. The graduates would step back into the alumni group to form one large circle and with arms crossed join hands and repeat the alumni pledge, "Enig og tro inntil Manitou falder" (United and loyal til Manitou falls).

When commencement exercises were moved to the Gymnasium, this practice was continued with the circles forming near where Agnes Mellby Hall now stands. When the classes became so large and the visitors so many the outdoor ceremony was discontinued, but a modified form was carried on in the Gymnasium at the close of the graduation exercises. With the present size of our classes and our outdoor commencements even this abridged ceremony is no longer feasible.

Memorial Day

FOR MANY YEARS it was customary for Mrs. Ytterboe, me, and the members of the Student Senate to decorate the St. Olaf graves on Memorial Day, which at that time was a holiday. Through the kindness and help of John Berntsen we were able to get lilacs and spirea and, if in bloom, iris and peonies from our own campus. The students were up early collecting the flowers, and by seven o'clock Joe Rodrick, the college trucker, would be on the campus with his truck to take us out to Oaklawn cemetery where the flowers were arranged and reverently placed by head-

stones or markers. The students read names and dates and became a little more familiar with personalities, some of whom they knew, others of whom were only names. Memorial Day regularly fell in the midst of semester examination week. When it was decided to include that day in the examination schedule, it no longer became possible for the students to participate and the custom was dropped. The Administration of the college has now assumed responsibility for placing flowers on the St. Olaf graves.

Yell-masters

ONE TRADITION THAT MANY of us miss is having real yell-masters direct our cheering at games. Just as none of us who saw the swift-passing Cully Swanson and the sure-receiving Frank Cleve or the slippery Syl Saumers on the football field or the phantom Mark Almli dribbling on the basketball floor will ever forget them, neither will we forget some of the yell-masters who led us in cheering.

There were Cully Johnson with his commanding voice and Marty Mundale with his antics, both carrying us along with their contagious enthusiasm. There was Shorty Hjortland who despite his lack of height led us with vigor and power. And there was the most renowned of them all Sam Groth, tall, calm, dignified who needed only to wag his forefinger to get the group to do just what he wanted. He had it under perfect control and would tolerate no booing or discourtesy of any kind. He made of cheer leading a fine art and always seemed to sense the right thing to do. Once during the half of a most tense Carleton-St. Olaf basketball game he went to the center of the floor, had the St. Olafites sing the Carleton song, and then directed the Carletonians in the St. Olaf song!

There were yell-masters in those days!

The Sixth

NOVEMBER 6TH, FOUNDERS DAY, was always a festive one. There was never any question as to the date of Homecoming during the earlier years; for that was always on November 6th no matter on what day of the week it fell. That was before St. Olaf played inter-collegiate football, though often a freshman-

sophomore game was part of the program for the day. I well remember in 1917 Selmer Berg, one of the most highly respected student leaders at the time, appearing before the faculty to plead the cause of inter-collegiate football and arguing that under conference rules and proper coaching it would be far less "dangerous" than the present inter-class games. Later when a football game became a regular feature of Homecoming, the date was changed to the Saturday nearest the 6th of November. The first time that happened one would often hear the remark, "The Sixth is on the fourth this year." Still later to avoid the often disagreeable weather of November (one year the game was played in a snowstorm), Homecoming was moved to October when the campus is in its most colorful autumn glory, at a date fixed each year.

In the earlier days The Sixth was the outstanding college event of the first semester. There was always a program in chapel with guest speaker and special music. Invariably too, above the speaker's stand hung the beautiful russet-gold St. Olaf banner made by Miss Agnes Mellby. Student committees decorated Ytterboe Hall dining room with streamers of black and gold and the college emblem. There was an especially good dinner and a reception in the evening at which the seniors made their first official appearance in cap and gown.

But what really made The Sixth more memorable than any other day of the year was the illumination of Old Main. No one who has ever seen it will forget it. If you, especially as a freshman, up to this time had felt a bit lost or out of place, that evening your love and loyalty to St. Olaf was made sure. For weeks a committee of boys had been working on the formation of patterns with candles for the windows of Old Main fronting the city. The windows lent themselves well to candle placements on different levels from sash to top. Several students were on duty in each room. At a signal every candle in every window on the entire front of the building was lit, sending forth a blaze of light. Then at the proper signals some lights were extinguished and some again relit to produce various formations such as a cross, a church, foundation date 1874, current year, years of classes in college, etc. Finally the entire facade was again enveloped in luminous splendor. Townspeople, too, enjoyed this spectacle, for they had an excellent view of it from below the Hill and even across the river.

Until 1918 there was no official student body organization to

take care of such matters. But always some upper class student with initiative would get permission from the president for the student body "to remain after chapel" to nominate the necessary committees for The Sixth. One year some wags nominated for the illumination committee all the boys who had red hair.

The practice of illuminating Old Main with candles was finally abandoned because of the fire hazard involved. For some years electric lights were substituted but this too had to be eliminated because of the exposed wiring. It would take a nice sum of money to wire the building properly for illuminating it and for a once-a-year event such funds have not so far been available.

A Tornado Visits the Campus

IT WAS IN THE AFTERNOON of a Hamline-St. Olaf baseball game held on the old athletic field between Mohn Hall and the present Agnes Mellby Hall, where the grandstand was located at that time. I might say that baseball never seemed so exciting after the new field was built below the Hill as when home run after home run was made on the old field when ball happened to land in the valley. Always there was a contingent of small boys along the rim of the drop-off to retrieve the ball as it rolled down the hill.

A terrific thunderstorm came up. The game was halted; people who were in cars along the edge of the field pulled down the side flaps (those were the days before enclosed cars) and huddled inside until the downpour should cease. The roofed grandstand was packed with students. I was watching from the west door of Mohn Hall, heard a terrific roar and saw a funnel cloud coming slowly over the valley with boards and branches whirling in its vortex, seemingly aiming straight for the grandstand. What should I do? Run over and tell the students to get out of the stand and throw themselves flat on the ground? But there wasn't time for this. So I just stood and prayed as earnestly as I have ever prayed.

Suddenly the tornado cloud divided. One half of it lifted in the air, went behind the stand, striking down again at nearby Castle Rock and wiping out one-half of that village. The other half of the twister passed over the campus in front of Old Main (a student, Gerhard Mather, coming up St. Olaf Avenue photographed it), dropped down into the yard of the first house adjoining the campus, picked up a chicken house in the back yard, and flit-

ted airily on its way to the Mississippi at Red Wing. The next morning the *Minneapolis Journal* came out with front page headlines, "St. Olaf Saved as by a Miracle."

The Lion's Den

A POPULAR FEATURE OF THE Mohn Hall cafeteria for many years was the afternoon coffee hour from 3 to 4:00 p.m., frequented by both faculty and students. There was a long-felt need for a place where such services could be provided for a longer period of time. When the Library was built in 1941, provision was made for a snack-room in the basement with fountain and lunch service that could serve as a student center, open from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. This was known as the Lion's Den and served for many years as a center for the students until the present far more extensive and adequate St. Olaf Center was erected in 1960.

Monument in the Valley

IN A SEQUESTERED SPOT IN Norway Valley is a granite monument erected to the memory of the Reverend Ole Fugleskjel, a St. Olaf alumnus who lost his life in a blizzard while on his way to the mission church he served near Spooner, Wisconsin. It was presented to St. Olaf by the students at Luther Seminary in 1910 and placed on a knoll in the then wooded area between the present Holland Hall and the Rolvaag Memorial Library. It could be seen from the sidewalk leading from Old Main past Steensland Hall over to Ytterboe.

One day a visitor asked a student passing on the walk what that monument was. Having herself never been over to look at it she did not know, but did not want to admit her ignorance. So she took a chance and glibly replied that this hill was named Manitou Heights and the monument marked the grave of an Indian chieftain. The visitor apparently satisfied went on. As soon as she could, the student went to examine the monument and found on it the most un-Indian name, Ole Fugleskjel, and a moving story of Christian heroism.

When Holland Hall was to be built, trees were cut down, the slope graded, and the monument had to be moved. With addi-

tional buildings projected it seemed that the most suitable and permanent location for it would be among the trees by one of the foot trails in the valley.

Luther-St. Olaf Endowment Fund Drive

IN 1926 ST. OLAF FACED some crucial days. Its accreditation with the North Central Association was in jeopardy because of the limited endowment funds of the college. The North Central would not recognize the annual contribution of the church body to St. Olaf as the equivalent of the interest on a quite sizeable sum. On the basis of its experience with some other church colleges it questioned the assurance of such continued appropriations. As a result a campaign among the church constituency for an endowment fund of a minimum of \$550,000 was undertaken.

Dr. O. H. Pankoke was engaged to plan the drive. At intervals throughout the year informational material was sent out from the busy endowment office to the pastors and lay people of the church; committees were organized in circuits and regions to arrange for mass meetings, and in March two teams went out to address these gatherings. St. Olaf and Luther College joined forces in this project. It was a challenging and exciting experience for the participants. One team was composed of President Boe of St. Olaf, Dr. Pankoke, Mrs. I. D. Ylvisaker, president of the Women's Missionary Federation, and the Reverend O. S. Reigstad. The members of the other team were President Oscar Olson of Luther College, Dr. P. M. Glasoe, the Reverend I. Hoff, and Miss Gertrude Hilleboe. It was a strenuous month with at least one and sometimes two meetings a day. We drove in open cars. At that time forty-five miles an hour was fast driving and fifty was a speed to talk about. A flat tire, plus an hour's delay in crossing the Mississippi into Wisconsin by ferry, plus roads under construction (which in one place brought the car to the hub in the mire) made a hectic ride for the members of one group. They just made their destination for an eight o'clock meeting at Beloit on the minute of eight o'clock. With no time for freshening up, but flushed and windburned, the speakers presented their cause to a large and receptive audience. It was on the last stretch of the road beyond the construction area that they had sped fifty miles an hour!

The church constituency responded wonderfully to the endowment drive and St. Olaf's and Luther's accreditation remained secure.

Tille's Bus

DURING THE 1930's WE HAD one convenience that was greatly appreciated by both faculty and students. That was Tille's Bus. This was an ordinary, used school bus which Mr. Tille had secured and which he ran on a regular schedule from Bridge Square to Mohn Hall. During the day it ran between class periods coming up from town for the beginning of a class period and leaving the Hill after the close of the period. In the evenings its trips were spaced an hour apart from 6 o'clock until 10 (11 o'clock on Saturdays). Tille's Bus was regularly outside the Grand Theatre when the group came out from the first show. It was also available for special between-hours group trips such as for a society or club banquet held downtown before we had our own facilities. At a time when the majority of the students lived off-campus, this bus service at ten cents a trip was a real boon.

After awhile, however, Tille's bus was unable to compete with the more flexible hours of taxis and the service was discontinued.

The St. Olaf Rock

THE ST. OLAF COLLEGE SEAL is to be found inscribed above the entrance to the Gymnasium, etched in the glass above the west door of the Library, carved on the marble bench that stood in front of Mohn Hall, depicted in a stained glass window in the Chapel, and in several other places on the campus.

The most interesting and historic of these is the carving on the St. Olaf Rock, a large granite tree-shaded boulder on the brow of the Hill to the south-west of old Mohn Hall. N. Edward Mohn, the oldest of the Mohn children became an architect. One summer vacation, while still a student at St. Olaf, he carved the St. Olaf seal on this boulder, then out in the woods.

In "The Mohn Family Tapestry" his brother Sigvard (Ted) recounts that "He made a cartoon from an impression of the seal. It was from this cartoon that he cut the seal. His task was especially difficult and tedious as he had but one cold chisel with

which to work. This soon became blunted and needed to be sharpened. After sharpening, it should have been tempered, but Edward had no means of tempering steel. Before he finished, the cutting edge of the chisel became as soft as malleable iron. For this reason the seal was not cut as deeply as Ed would have liked."

For many years every student who had a camera or a friend who owned one had his or her or their picture taken seated on the St. Olaf Rock. During the years the ground around the rock has been filling up and the boulder has seemed to diminish in size. When the excavation was made for the new Science Center, this large granite boulder was scooped out from its resting place of centuries and for the first time its impressive size was revealed. When the Science Center and the landscaping around it are completed, this historic seal-inscribed boulder will be given an honorable place on the campus.

Our College Songs

The College of Our Fathers

The college of our fathers,
On Manitou so high,
Is dearer far than others,
Her fame will never die.
Her sturdy walls are grounded
Among the stalwart pines,
She stands for truth unbounded
Which Viking blood defines.

Her lofty spires are pointed
Against the distant sky,
For noble deeds anointed
With power from on high.
The precepts she is teaching
Within her walls so wide,
Shall ever be far-reaching
As is the mighty tide.

Her sons and daughters loyal
Sing praises to her name.
The black and gold so royal
Her glories shall proclaim.
We love our Alma Mater!
Long may St. Olaf live!
May God, our Heavenly Father,
His blessing to her give!

"The College of Our Fathers" was written by members of the Class of 1912, the words by Agnes Berge and Clara Fjelstad (Nelson), the music by Maude Hopperstad (Rosenquist), and was first sung at commencement that year. It became the official college hymn and has remained so to this day.

High on Manitou Heights

High on Manitou Heights
St. Olaf College stands,
There's the place where I ever long to be,
Where the students are gay
Amid their work and play,
There's the place where I ever long to be.
Give me a place on the Dear Old Hill,
For fondly I love it still,
I sigh night and day,
I long to be all way
At St. Olaf, the College on the Hill.

"High on Manitou Heights" came into being around 1915. It is really not original with us but is an adaptation of an old southern melody by one of the numerous male quartettes that Manitou Heights has fostered. One of the original lines reads "Where the darkies are gay on every holiday." The melody and words caught on quickly and each succeeding student generation has sung with fervor of "High on Manitou Heights" . . . 'Where the students are gay amid their work and play'.

A charming story is told of Mrs. C. A. Mellby. She was attending a concert in Minneapolis. Among the numbers played by the orchestra was a medley of southern melodies. All at once she heard the strains of "High on Manitou" and immediately stood up. A man sitting near-by disgustedly ejaculated, "Sit down. This isn't the 'Star Spangled Banner.'"

Onward St. Olaf

Onward St. Olaf steadily!
Onward ye Vikings bold!
We're out to win this victory;
Fight for the Black and Gold!
Rah! Rah! Rah!
Forward to battle gallantly,
Our sturdy warriors go!
We're all behind them,
Sure to find them
Fighting for Manitou!

"Onward St. Olaf": One lovely spring day during the 1920's, Mrs. Mellby telephoned me and excitedly asked me to come to her house for she had something she wanted to show me. When I arrived she said, "We don't have any good pep songs to sing at our

games. All we have are rah, rah yells and neither the college hymn nor "High on Manitou" are suitable. I've been working this morning on a pep song and I want you to hear it and tell me what you think of it." So she played and sang her "Onward St. Olaf Steadily." I was delighted with it. She asked if I could in some way transmit it to the students for her. I conferred with Miss Ella Hjertaas (Mrs. Herman Roe), who got a quartette of her voice students to come to Mohn Hall to rehearse it and give their opinion of it. They liked it and introduced it at a student body meeting. Ever since it has been a regular feature at basketball and football games, often with the stirring accompaniment of the band.

Fram! Fram! St. Olaf

Christmen, Crossmen in dauntless quest,
Led by the spirit of truth,
Reared for the race a Home in the west
Filled with the song of youth.
Founded in faith to render light,
Radiant today it crowns the height,
Rising glorious and, under God, victorious.

Chorus

Fram! Fram! St. Olaf! Impelled we sing,
Sing to thee.
Fram! Fram! St. Olaf!
The hilltops ring,
Fram! Fram! Free!

Grant that spirit to lead us still
Onward as ages unroll,
Caught by the Crossmen shined on the hill,
Steepled to lift the soul,
Give us again the heart aglow
Stirred by the songs of Manitou,
Ever glorious and, under God, victorious.

Repeat Chorus

"Fram! Fram! St. Olaf:" This stirring song is the joint product of two members of the music faculty, the words by the poet-musician, Dr. Oscar Overby, and the music by the composer, Dr. F. Melius Christiansen. In these stimulating words and music they have left us a precious heritage and a compelling summons.

Trumpets, Resound

Trumpets, resound from the hill, thro' the valley;
Echo the thrills of a jubilant throng.
Manitou calls and, responding, we rally
Bringing our tribute and greeting in song.
Hail! Hail! St. Olaf, hail!
Here youth shall long prevail,
Ever renewed as you rise into sight.
Trumpets, triumphantly sound from the height
The call of our college enthroned in the light!

“Trumpets, Resound”: This song with words by Dr. Overby written to the melody of “Sønner av Norge” has not been used as much as it might have been. It is an excellent marching and rallying song and is fun to sing.

Fairest of Homes

“Fairest of Homes” with words written by Dr. Mellby and the music by Mrs. Mellby is a lovely thing. It is primarily an alumni song, but its sentiments are such that every student should know it.

Fairest of homes on the circling hills
Sacred to wisdom's reign;
Guardian of fame which my fancy thrills
Promise what I may attain;
Halls where I caught the distant gleam
Presage of victory;
Fields where I dreamed youth's shining dream;
I pledge you my loyalty.

Visions of beauty, passing fair,
Thronging from every clime;
Glory of friendship, rich and rare,
Built in youth's golden prime;
Impulse to struggle the upward way,
Passion for liberty;
All that shall fruit in the coming day,
St. Olaf, we owe to Thee!

O, may we cling to the call they bring,
Visions that gleam and burn;
O, may we drink of memories spring
When to Thy arms we turn
Fair Alma Mater, robed in light,
Gather thy sons again,
Rise on Thy height like a beacon bright
O Maker and guide of men.

ST. OLAF COLLEGE is pleased to publish this record of significant events in the history of the College as remembered by Miss Gertrude Hilleboe. The author of *Manitou Analecta* is well qualified to reminisce. After undergraduate days at St. Olaf she later occupied the position of Dean of Women for 43 years. She also served on the faculty as a teacher of Latin.

Miss Hilleboe's memory is impressive both in the breadth of college activities it embraces and in the degree of detail with which many events are recalled. Her story also makes no secret of her love for St. Olaf and its ideals. She is one of those whose contribution to the College far exceeded any normal requirements of the positions she held or responsibilities which were hers.

During the decade preceding the Centennial of the College in 1974 St. Olaf will publish personal histories such as *Manitou Analecta*. The first was *My Years at St. Olaf* by Paul G. Schmidt, published in 1967.

March 18, 1968

SIDNEY A. RAND, *President*